



February 17, 2022

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Chairman
Appropriations Committee
U.S. Senate
S-128, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Vice Chairman
Appropriations Committee
U.S. Senate
S-128, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chairwoman
Appropriations Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
H-307, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger
Ranking Member
Appropriations Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
1036 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Leahy, Vice Chairman Shelby, Chairwoman DeLauro, and Ranking Member Granger:

On behalf of the nation's historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs) and the low-to-moderate income and first-generation college students at all of our nation's colleges and universities, I write to encourage the final passage of the 12 Fiscal Year 2022 appropriations bills prior to the deadline of March 11, 2022. Among the myriad of departments, programs, and initiatives that the bills will address, there are some which most impact the students from the fragile socio-economic backgrounds and the institutions which are the highest performing at educating them. While impacting those populations is a high priority for UNCF (United Negro College Fund), we believe they are also a main concern for you.

President Biden's FY 2022 budget was landmark for HBCUs. In almost all of our top priorities, his budget asked for increases. This is remarkable, because no presidential budget in recent history asked for more than "holding harmless" the previous year's funding amounts. We are pleased that both the House and Senate appropriations bills treated our programs of interest well. In the Department of Education, we are asking the final FY 22 funding legislation to support our priorities at the highest possible level:

- Strengthening HBCUs (\$402.619 million),
- Strengthening Historically Black Graduate Institutions program (\$102.313 million),
- Title VII HBCU Masters (\$20.956 million),
- HBCU Capital Financing Program (\$20.484 million),
- Pell Grant (\$6,895 for maximum award), and
- Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (\$1.028 billion).

At the Department of Health and Human Services, we support the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD) be funded at \$652.244 million, including \$250 million for health disparities research. We hope this committee's print focuses the \$250 million at HBCUs, especially in light of the NIH funded Ginther study.

At the Department of Defense, we support the DoD HBCU / MI program to be funded at \$100 million, with an emphasis on HBCU infrastructure and in order to compete for future funding.

Thank you for you attention to these matters. Please do feel free to reach out to me for any further clarification about any of the above requests.

Sincerely,



Michael L. Lomax
President & CEO