

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 4, 2017

The Honorable Rodney Frelinghuysen
Chair
House Appropriations Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nita M. Lowey
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Frelinghuysen and Ranking Member Lowey:

As you begin the FY2018 appropriations process, we request you restore and increase federal support to our nation's Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and Predominantly Black Institutions (PBIs). In particular, we ask for your Committee's full support for the programs outlined in the attached document in the FY 2018 appropriations bills that you will soon write.

Collectively, these institutions enroll more than 700,000 primarily first-generation, low-income and minority students. HBCUs, PBIs and students who attend these institutions rely heavily on federal assistance when compared to traditional schools. For example, 70 percent of students who attend four-year HBCUs depend on Federal Pell Grants for their education, a substantially greater share than the 39 percent of students at other four-year, nonprofit colleges and universities.

HBCUs are the cornerstone of higher education for the African-American community, yet these institutions, along with PBIs, have suffered disproportionately from the implementation of unfavorable federal policies in recent years. For example, Title III support to these institutions remains below its FY 2010 level. Coupled with cuts to Title III Institutional Aid, modifications to Pell Grant eligibility requirements, and restrictions on federal loans, these changes have resulted in a loss of more than \$250 million in federal support, jeopardizing the ability of HBCUs and PBIs to deliver high-quality educational and support services to their students.

These federal cuts have occurred at a time when it is essential to increase the number of Americans earning a college degree in order to boost our country's global competitiveness. For instance, over the past forty years, the percentage of jobs requiring postsecondary education more than doubled from 28 percent to 59 percent (Carnevale, Smith, & Strohl, 2010). By 2018, two-thirds of all jobs will require postsecondary education (Carnevale, Smith, & Strohl, 2010). Employers today demand a more educated workforce, but federal investments in the institutions that produce the highest percentages of low-income, first-generation and minority students have decreased. Despite continued fiscal austerity, HBCUs and PBIs provide superior educational opportunities that build a foundation for future success. For example, in 2014-2015 academic year, HBCUs represented approximately three percent of all four-year colleges and universities, yet these institutions confer 17 percent of bachelor's degrees awarded to African Americans. In science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields, HBCUs granted 24 percent of the bachelor's degrees awarded to African Americans. Further, HBCUs comprise the top ten colleges that graduate the largest number of African Americans who earn doctoral degrees.

For over a hundred years, HBCUs have served as an engine of social mobility for millions of students. The communities that we represent rely on these institutions to educate our students, uplift our neighborhoods,

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and revitalize our local economies. As you develop the FY 2018 appropriations bills, we urge you to fully support HBCUs and PBIs so that they can continue delivering educational experiences that prepare the next generation of leaders with the skills needed to strengthen our economy and improve the well-being of our great nation. We appreciate your consideration of our requests. The amounts that follow are the minimum levels of funding needed to restore federal investment in HBCUs. While we support funding of new programs, we do not endorse cutting Title III, Part B or other already-established HBCU or PBI accounts to fund new programs.


In addition, we urge you to support the hundreds of thousands of students served by HBCUs and PBIs by providing substantial increases in federal student aid programs targeted to low-income students. Approximately 70 percent of HBCU students receive Pell Grants and 78 percent receive federal loans to attend college. African American families generally have lower assets and incomes, making federal financial aid critically important to college attainment. For these reasons, we strongly support the request of the HBCU Community to raise the maximum Pell Grant to \$6,072 and index it to inflation, reinstate summer Pell Grants of \$1,683 to enable students to finish college faster with less debt, increase Supplemental Educational Opportunity funding to \$757 million and invest at least \$1 billion in the Federal Work Study program.

If you have any questions about the content of this letter, please contact Jill Hunter-Williams with Congressman Davis at (202) 225-5006 or Leah Hill with Congresswoman Adams at (202) 225-1510. Thank you for your consideration.

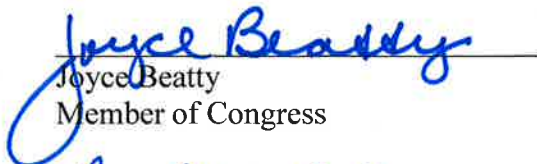
Sincerely,



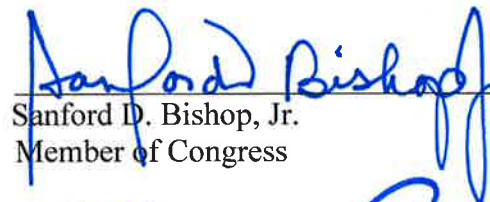
Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress



Alma S. Adams
Member of Congress



Joyce Beatty
Member of Congress



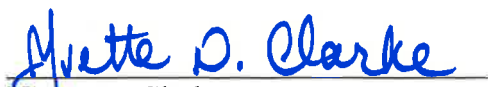
Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.
Member of Congress



Lisa Blunt Rochester
Member of Congress




G.K. Butterfield
Member of Congress



Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress




Wm. Lacy Clay
Member of Congress


John Conyers, Jr.
Member of Congress




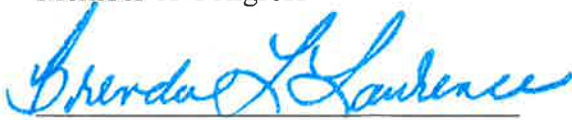
Val Butler Demings
Member of Congress

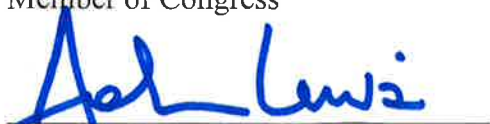

Marcia L. Fudge
Member of Congress

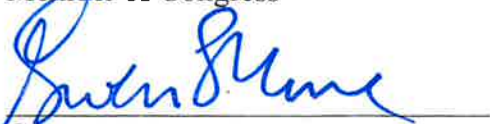

Alcee L. Hastings
Member of Congress


Sheila Jackson Lee
Member of Congress



Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress

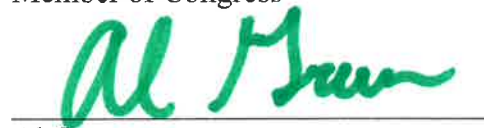

Brenda L. Lawrence
Member of Congress



John Lewis
Member of Congress


Gwen S. Moore
Member of Congress



Elijah L. Cummings
Member of Congress

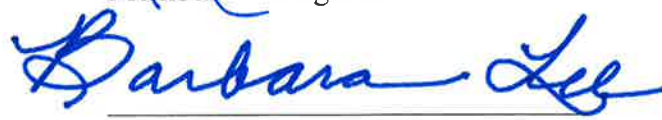

Dwight Evans
Member of Congress


Al Green
Member of Congress


Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress


Eddie Bernice Johnson
Member of Congress


Robin L. Kelly
Member of Congress


Barbara Lee
Member of Congress


Gregory W. Meeks
Member of Congress


Donald M. Payne, Jr.
Member of Congress

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Stacey E. Plaskett
Member of Congress

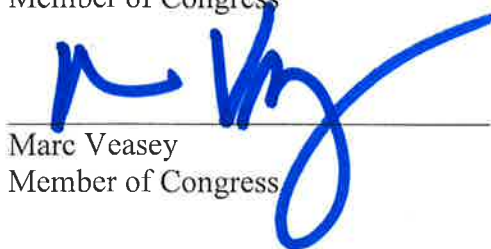

Cedric L. Richmond
Member of Congress

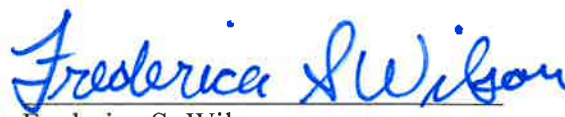

Bobby L. Rush
Member of Congress


David Scott
Member of Congress


Robert C. "Bobby" Scott
Member of Congress


Terri A. Sewell
Member of Congress


Marc Veasey
Member of Congress


Frederica S. Wilson
Member of Congress

Attachment

cc:

- The Hon. Robert Aderholt, Chairman, House Agriculture-Rural Development-FDA Subcommittee
- The Hon. Sanford Bishop, Ranking Member, House Agriculture-Rural Development-FDA Subcommittee
- The Hon. John Culberson, Chairman, House Commerce-Justice-Science Subcommittee
- The Hon. José Serrano, Ranking Member, House Commerce-Justice-Science Subcommittee
- The Hon. Kay Granger, Chairman, House Defense Subcommittee
- The Hon. Peter J. Visclosky, Ranking Member, House Defense Subcommittee
- The Hon. John Carter, Chairman, House Homeland Security Subcommittee
- The Hon. Lucille Roybal-Allard, Ranking Member, House Homeland Security Subcommittee
- The Hon. Ken Calvert, Chairman, House Interior Subcommittee
- The Hon. Betty McCollum, Ranking Member, House Interior Subcommittee
- The Hon. Tom Cole, Chairman, Labor-HHS-ED Subcommittee
- The Hon. Rosa L. DeLauro, Ranking Member, Labor-HHS-ED Subcommittee
- The Hon. Mario Diaz-Balart, Chairman, House Transportation-HUD Subcommittee
- The Hon. David Price, Ranking Member, House Transportation-HUD Subcommittee

FY 2018 APPROPRIATIONS REQUESTS TO SUPPORT HBCUS AND PBIS

The top ten funding requests include:

1. **LHHS:** Title III, Parts A, B, C, and F
 - **LHHS:** Strengthening Predominantly Black Institutions (Title III, Part A), \$11 million discretionary/\$15 million mandatory;
 - **LHHS:** Strengthening HBCUs Undergraduate Program (Title III, Part B and F), \$375 million discretionary/\$85 million mandatory;
 - **LHHS:** Strengthening HBCUs Graduate Program (Title III, Part B), \$125 million;
 - **LHHS:** Endowment Challenge Grants (Title III, Part C), \$220 million
2. **LHHS:** HBCU Capital Financing Program (Title III, Part D), \$25 million, and Raise Statutory Cap on Loan Guarantees;
3. **LHHS:** Master's Degree Programs at HBCUs and PBIs (Title VII), \$11.5 million;
4. **AG:** 1890 Research, Education, Extension, and Facility Programs, \$171.2 million;
5. **NSF:** HBCU STEM programs – LSAMP, HBCU-UP, AGEP, CREST.
6. **NSF:** HBCU Research - Excellence in Research \$10 million, NSF INCLUDES, \$185 million;
7. **DOD:** HBCU/Minority Institutions Program, \$40 million
8. **INTERIOR:** HBCU Historic Preservation Program, \$50 million with bill language waiving the matching requirement
9. **LHHS:** HBCUs Centers of Innovation: College Success, \$50 million; Teacher Diversity, \$50 million;
10. **HUD:** HBCU Grant Program, \$75 million; University Community Fund, \$11 million

Agriculture

1890 Education and Facility Programs – Congress provides resources to American public land-grant universities, including many HBCUs, to support education and research, and to upgrade facilities. We ask that the House and Senate maintain their commitment to these programs by supporting small increases in allocations for 1890 Education and Facility Programs in the FY 2018 Agriculture Appropriations bill.

- *Evans-Allen Research Funding – \$64.7 million*
- *1890 Institutions Capacity Building Grants – \$30 million*
- *1890 Extension Programs – \$54.5 million*
- *1890 Institutions Facility Improvements – \$22 million*

Commerce-Justice-Science

National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) – Minority University Research & Education Program – NASA partners with higher education institutions to ensure underrepresented students can meet future workforce needs in STEM fields. The FY 2016 Consolidated Appropriations Act supported this program at \$32 million. We request a \$33 million appropriation in the FY 2018 Commerce-Justice-Science Appropriations bill. Given that the top ten producers of African-American Ph.D.s in STEM fields are HBCUs, these institutions need every financial investment to enhance their success.

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) – Education Partnerships Program/Minority-Serving Institutions – NOAA’s Office of Education partners with HBCUs and Minority-Serving Institutions (MSIs) to increase the number of students from underrepresented communities who graduate with degrees in particular science fields. This department also provides scholarships to students to complete degrees in the STEM fields related to NOAA’s mission. The FY 2016 Consolidated Appropriations Act allocated \$14.4 million for this program. To ensure more scholarship support and STEM training at HBCUs and MSIs, we ask the funding be raised to \$16 million.

National Science Foundation (NSF) – The overall U.S. science and technology workforce exceeded 7.4 million workers in 2012 and it will continue to grow significantly through 2018, to an estimated 8.7 million STEM workers. However, only one to two percent of African-American 9th graders eventually graduate with STEM degrees ten years after entering high school. We ask that your Committee increase investments from \$113 million to \$150 million for the four NSF “Broadening Participation” programs that help HBCUs and MSIs bolster their STEM programs:

- *Centers for Research Excellence in Science and Technology (CREST) - \$26 million*
- *Alliances for Graduate Education and the Professoriate (AGEP) - \$9 million*
- *HBCU Undergraduate Program (HBCU-UP) - \$64 million*
- *Louis Stokes Alliances for Minority Participation (LSAMP) - \$51 million*

HBCU Excellence in Research – HBCUs comprise only three percent of all colleges and universities, yet produce 25 percent of STEM graduates. In FY 2017, the Senate Appropriations Committee recommended \$10 million to establish the HBCUs Excellence in Research program at the National Science Foundation. This new initiative would provide strategic programs and opportunities for HBCUs that stimulate sustainable improvement in their research and development capacity and competitiveness. This program would help build HBCU participation in larger research directorates and in the "Broadening Participation" programs in the Education and Human Resources directorate. We request \$10 million for this vital program which aligns with the recommendation in the 2016 report to Congress on *Advancing Historically Black Colleges and Universities* by the Subcommittee on Advancing Historically Black Colleges and Universities of the Advisory Committee of the National Science Foundation Directorate for Education and Human Resources.

NSF INCLUDES - The National Science Foundation Inclusion across the Nation of Communities of Learners of Underrepresented Discoverers in Engineering and Science (NSF INCLUDES), is a comprehensive national initiative designed to enhance STEM leadership, diversity, and innovation. HBCUs can serve as best practice models for other colleges and universities to further drive participation of African Americans in the STEM workforce. We request \$25 million for this program targeted to HBCUs.

Minority Institutions Digital and Wireless Technology Opportunity – This program was authorized in the *Higher Education Opportunity Act of 2008*. Funds assist HBCUs and MSIs in improving their instrumentation, connectivity, hardware, and software for instruction and research. We support an allocation of \$75 million to improve the technological competitiveness of under-resourced institutions serving high percentages of students underrepresented in higher education.

Defense

Historically Black Colleges and Universities/Minority Institutions Program (HBCU/MI) – The HBCU/MI program supports research on HBCU campuses and helps to attract students to high-demand fields that protect our country’s national security efforts. We request that the House continue to support this important program by increasing the federal investment to \$40 million in the FY 2018 Department of Defense Appropriations bill. This investment will build and enhance STEM capabilities related to national defense priorities on HBCU campuses.

Education

Title III Strengthening Institutions Programs (Discretionary and Mandatory) – Title III programs are the cornerstone of federal support to HBCUs and PBIs, providing critical operating and capital resources for institutions. Discretionary funding provides support for undergraduate and graduate education programs and support services that are essential for student success. Additionally, Title III discretionary funding enables these under-resourced institutions to build their endowments and financial sustainability. Title III mandatory funding supplements and works in conjunction with the discretionary formula program to enhance academic instruction at HBCUs and PBIs, especially in the STEM fields. We ask that Congress increase funding for the Title III programs in the FY 2018 LHHS Appropriations bill including re-funding the Endowment Challenge Grant, as listed below.

- *Title III, Part B, Section 323, HBCU Undergraduate (Discretionary) - \$375 million*
- *Title III, Part F, Section 371, HBCU Undergraduate (Mandatory) - \$85 million*
- *Title III, Part B, Section 326, HBCU Graduate (Discretionary) - \$125 million*
- *Title III, Part A, Section 318, PBI Undergraduate (Discretionary) - \$11 million*
- *Title III, Part A, Section 318, PBI Undergraduate (Mandatory) - \$15 million*
- *Title VII, Sections 723 & 724, Masters Degree Programs at HBCUs and PBIs (Mandatory) - \$11.5 million*
- *Title III, Part C, Endowment Challenge Grants - \$220 million*

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Minority Science and Engineering Program Improvement Program – This program supports the participation of underrepresented minority youth in STEM through outreach and hands-on learning projects and supports a marketing campaign aimed at encouraging minorities to enter the STEM fields. We request an \$11 million appropriation for FY 2018.

HBCU Capital Financing Program – The HBCU Capital Financing program provides low-cost capital to finance physical improvements on HBCU campuses by guaranteeing and administering loans. As a result of these investments, HBCUs are able to provide students with modern learning and living environments. We urge the Committee to increase loan subsidies by \$4.5 million to \$25 million in FY 2018. This increase would support approximately \$85 million in new loans to 2-8 additional institutions for a total annual loan volume of \$400 million. We also request appropriations language to exceed the cumulative loan guarantee statutory cap, which Congress has approved in previous years.

Howard University – Howard University was federally-chartered in 1867. This appropriation provides partial support to Howard University for construction, development, improvement, endowment and maintenance of the University and its hospital. Given the critical role of this institution in educating African-American students and aiding African-American residents in the DC region, we request \$250 million. These funds will enable this comprehensive, research-oriented, flagship institution to continue to provide a high-quality and affordable education to its predominantly African-American student body.

HBCU College Success Centers of Innovation – Using the authority provided under the Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education, we request report language to provide \$50 million to help close a significant college attainment gap between African-American and white Americans. Today, young African-Americans between the ages of 25 and 29 are only half as likely as their white counterparts to hold a college degree. HBCUs have a demonstrated history in graduating a large segment of the nation's student populations who are underrepresented in higher education. New HBCU centers of innovation on college completion could provide institutions with the financial means and flexibility to test new approaches to enhance student completion and workforce outcomes, such as pathway initiatives, co-requisite remediation, accelerated degree programs, technology-enhanced delivery models, and competency based education. We request \$50 million in annual funding for College Success Initiatives – a \$50 million annual increase.

HBCU Teacher Diversity Centers of Innovation - Given the urgent need to improve diversity in the teaching profession and the demonstrated success of HBCUs at graduating education students, we request using the authority provided under the Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education to establish new HBCU Centers of Innovation for teacher diversity. New HBCU Centers could accelerate the training of effective minority teachers through both traditional and nontraditional teacher training programs – a key national need supported by research evidence showing a positive correlation between increased teacher diversity and student achievement. Although students of color are expected to comprise 56 percent of the student population by 2024, African American teachers comprise only 7 percent of the current teaching workforce. We request \$50 million in annual funding for teacher training initiatives – a \$50 million annual increase.

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Homeland Security

Science & Technology Directorate – University Programs, Homeland Security Centers of Excellence – The Homeland Security Centers of Excellence bring together leading experts to conduct multidisciplinary research to enhance homeland security capabilities. We respectfully request \$45 million in the FY 2018 Homeland Security Appropriations bill to strengthen our nation’s national security.

Housing and Urban Development

HBCU Grant Program – We request \$75,000,000 to re-establish the HBCU Grant Program, a unique competitive grant initiative to enable Historically Black Colleges and Universities to affect positive change in their communities through community development efforts that bring together institutions, students and neighborhood organizations. This initiative, last funded in FY 2010 through the HUD Office of University Partnerships, offers an excellent model for an HBCU: federal partnership for urban and rural revitalization, focused on housing, public service activities, public facilities, and economic development including skills training.

University Community Fund – The University Community Fund provides competitive grants to assist universities, including HBCUs and MSIs, in forming partnerships with the communities in which they are located. These partnerships undertake a range of activities that foster and achieve neighborhood revitalization, with special attention to underserved communities. We request \$11 million in the FY 2018 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill for this program.

Interior

HBCU Historic Preservation Program – Considering that most HBCU campuses are over 125 years old, historic preservation costs are daunting. In 1998, the National Trust for Historic Preservation designated the nation’s HBCUs among the nation’s most endangered historic sites. These funds provide urgently needed assistance to HBCUs. These institutions are combating rising financial challenges associated with maintaining historic properties, and the matching requirement presents challenges for some institutions. We request \$50 million for this program in the FY 2018 Interior Appropriations bill so that some of our nation’s most historically significant structures are not lost forever. To increase access to this Important program, we request bill language to exempt HBCUs from the matching requirement consistent with language included by the House in the FY17 Interior bill.