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December 10, 2019

United States House  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the more than 3 million members of the NEA who teach and support students in public schools and on public college campuses in 14,000 communities, we urge you to vote YES on the FUTURE Act (H.R. 5363). The legislation will permanently reauthorize critically needed funding for historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs) and other minority-serving institutions. Votes associated with this issue may be included in NEA's Report Card for the 116th Congress.

According to the American Council on Education, HBCUs, Tribal Colleges, Hispanic-Serving Institutions, and other MSIs, despite accounting for about one-fifth of the nation's degree-granting institutions, enroll 28 percent of America's undergraduates—many of whom are first-generation students from low-income families. H.R. 5363 recognizes the value of their missions and academic offerings, their prominence in the lives of the 4.8 million students who attend them, and the role these campuses play in contributing to the economic vitality of communities and our nation.

The bipartisan FUTURE Act will restore funding to minority-serving institutions (MSIs) that expired at the end of September. The legislation will also:

- Permanently reauthorize and provide \$255 million in annual mandatory funding for minority-serving institutions;
- Simplify the financial aid process by making it easier for the Department of Education and the IRS to share student aid recipients' tax information, eliminating the challenge applicants face to verify that information provided to both entities is identical; and
- Streamline income-driven repayment plans for nearly 8 million student-loan borrowers.

Minority-serving institutions are vital members of the higher education universe. We must do all we can to ensure that these colleges and universities have the support they need to cultivate the success of their students.

Sincerely,

Marc Egan  
Director of Government Relations  
National Education Association