



June 11, 2021

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

Re: Hispanic-Serving Institutions Capital Finance Program

Dear Chairwoman DeLauro:

On behalf of the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU), I am writing to respectfully request that you include the bill language submitted by Congressman Cuellar to the Labor-HHS-Education Subcommittee to establish a Capital Finance Program for Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs). This program would provide \$100 million in federally guaranteed loans at zero or nominal interest rates to finance improvements to the infrastructure of the nation's HSIs.

A 21st Century workforce requires an educational infrastructure that includes modern and updated facilities for all students. HSIs make up just 17% of the U.S. postsecondary institutions, but enroll 66.8% of Hispanic, 41.3% of Asian, 35.6% of Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander, 26.2% of multi-racial, 24.2% of Black, and 15% of white students in the U.S. HSIs educate and train this diverse cohort of students and continue to do so with fewer federal resources per student than their peer institutions. Most HSIs lack the capital financing or refinancing they need for construction, maintenance, renovation, and improvement of classrooms, libraries, laboratories, other instructional facilities, and IT infrastructure.

As the House Appropriations Committee and Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Education deliberate on the Fiscal Year 2022 budget, we urge you to include the language that was submitted by Congressman Cuellar to establish a HSIs Capital Finance Program. The HSIs Capital Finance Program would provide necessary funding via federally guaranteed loans for capital outlays and the funds required to subsidized zero or nominal interest rates. HSIs need access to affordable financing for the infrastructure improvements required to educate and train their diverse students for the new jobs of our economy, particularly in the STEM fields.

HACU is ready to work with you and your staff on this issue. I look forward to hearing from you soon. If I can help answer any questions, please do not hesitate to reach me at antonio.flores@hacu.net or at 210-576-3214.

Respectfully,

Antonio R. Flores
President and CEO

cc: The Honorable Kay Granger, Ranking Member, House Committee on Appropriations
The Honorable Tom Cole, Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, House Committee on Appropriations
The Honorable Patrick Leahy, Chairman, Senate Committee on Appropriations
The Honorable Richard Shelby, Vice Chairman, Senate Committee on Appropriations
The Honorable Patty Murray, Chair, Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, Senate Committee on Appropriations
The Honorable Roy Blunt, Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, Senate Committee on Appropriations