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May 26, 2022

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

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

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

The Honorable Richard Shelby  
Vice Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. Senate  
S-146A, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20510

## **Re: Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 Appropriations Requests for Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs)**

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

On behalf of the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU), I am writing to request your support for critical programs needed for the 559 Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs) and their 5.1 million students. For the first time in 20 years, the number of institutions that met the definition of an HSI decreased from 569 to 559.<sup>1</sup> This decrease in enrollment and concentration of Hispanic students in colleges and universities around the country is an alarming trend for our nation's economy and future workforce. HSIs continue to be challenged by inadequate resources in their efforts to recover from the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic as they strive to educate and serve the surge of Hispanics and other underserved populations in the years ahead. Current funding for HSIs is not commensurate to the 559 HSIs and the 5.1 million students that they educate and serve.

HSIs play a critical role in educating and training the most diverse and underserved communities and do so with fewer federal resources per student than their peer institutions. HSIs enroll two-thirds of the estimated 3.1 million Hispanic undergraduate and graduate students in American higher education, many of whom are first-generation students and come from low-income families. HSIs also enroll 41.4% of Asian, 35.2% of Native Hawaiian & Pacific Islander, 23.8% of Black, 21.1% of American Indian & Alaska Native, and 16.4% of non-Hispanic White students in the U.S. Additionally, while HSIs only account for 16% of all colleges and universities, they enroll 31% of Pell recipients.<sup>2</sup>

As the nation continues to rebuild from the COVID-19 pandemic and looks to create a stronger and diverse 21<sup>st</sup> century workforce, it is critical that existing federal investments strengthen our workforce by enhancing the education infrastructure of HSIs to pave a path of success and opportunity for our Hispanic students in the FY23 appropriations process.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.hacu.net/NewsBot.asp?MODE=VIEW&ID=3655>

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.hacu.net/images/hacu/conf/2022CapForum/ResourcesMenu/2022HSI\\_QuickFactsSheet.pdf](https://www.hacu.net/images/hacu/conf/2022CapForum/ResourcesMenu/2022HSI_QuickFactsSheet.pdf)

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, HSIs already lacked sufficient funding and resources for up-to-date and “smart” technology equipped classrooms, modern science labs, human patient simulators and skills labs, libraries, and other infrastructure needs. Currently, many HSI classrooms are out of date, libraries lack essential digital assets and holders, and buildings are not equipped with the necessary broadband technology to enhance the learning experience for all students. Now these needs are compounded, and even more urgent as more frequent and extreme weather events impact their infrastructure.

HACU has identified the following funding levels in federal programs to reach these goals. These requests are based on existing needs of HSIs to help prepare their students as the next generation of the American workforce.

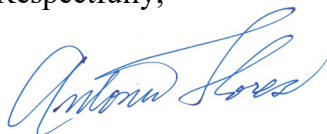
- **Developing Hispanic-Serving Institutions (Title V, Part A):** A total of \$250 million, an increase of \$67.15 million from FY 2022, which is \$13.3 million above the President’s FY 2023 budget request.
- **Promoting Postbaccalaureate Opportunities for Hispanic Americans (Title V, Part B):** A total of \$100 million, an increase of \$80.34 million from FY 2022, which is \$71.2 million above the President’s FY 2023 budget request.
- **Pell Grants:** The Pell Grant has not kept up with the rising cost of college. Congress needs to make necessary investments to restore the purchasing power of Pell Grants. The Pell Grant maximum award should be doubled and allowed to cover the full cost of college, including books and rent.
- **National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) HSIs Education Grants Program:** A total of \$40 million, an increase of \$26 million above FY 2022, which is \$26 million above the President’s FY 2023 budget request.
- **Hispanic-Serving Agricultural Colleges and Universities (HSACU):** HSACUs were codified in the 2014 Farm Bill and created new competitive grant programs in support of Hispanic agricultural workers and youth. These programs are designed to increase the educational capacity of HSIs to attract, retain, and graduate outstanding student to enhance the nation’s food, agricultural, scientific, and professional workforce.
  - **HSACU Endowment Program:** \$80 million
  - **HSACU Equity Grants Program:** \$20 million
  - **HSACU Institutional Capacity-Building Grant Program:** \$40 million
  - **HSACU Fundamental and Applied Research Grants Program:** \$40 million
  - **HSACU National Resources Leadership Program:** \$40 million
  - **HSACU Extension Grants:** \$40 million
  - **HSACU Training Hispanic Agricultural Workers Grants:** \$10 million
- **NSF Improving Undergraduate STEM Education: HSI Program:** A total of \$65 million, an increase of \$16.5 million above FY 2022, which is \$4.5 million above the President’s FY 2023 budget request.

As you consider programmatic funding levels for FY 2023, I urge you to increase the funding to HSIs to effectively support the 5.1 million undergraduate and graduate students that they educate and serve.

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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](mailto:antonio.flores@hacu.net) or at 210-576-3214.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Antonio Flores". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Antonio" being larger and more prominent than the last name "Flores".

Antonio R. Flores  
President and CEO

cc: The Honorable Bob Menendez, Co-Chair, HSI Caucus  
The Honorable Alex Padilla, Co-Chair, HSI Caucus  
The Honorable Joaquin Castro, Co-Chair, HSI Caucus  
The Honorable Mario Diaz-Balart, Co-Chair, HSI Caucus  
The Honorable Jenniffer Gonzalez-Colon, Co-Chair, HSI Caucus  
The Honorable Raul M. Grijalva, Co-Chair, HSI Caucus  
The Honorable Raul Ruiz, Chair, Congressional Hispanic Caucus