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August 2, 2022

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

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 for Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs)

As the Senate considers programmatic funding levels for FY 2023, I am writing to **underscore the urgency of increasing the proposed FY 2023 funding levels for Hispanic-Serving Institutions**. Increasing funding for critical programs is much needed for HSIs that have been severely underfunded for decades to properly educate and serve their students. Though falling short of HACU's appropriations requests, **I urge the Senate to adopt the FY 2023 funding levels as put forth by the House**. This level of funding will more equitably support two of every three of the 3.8 million Hispanic college students served by HSIs, which have been severely underfunded for decades.

The number of HSIs continue to grow, increasing from 311 in 2010 to 559 in 2020. HSIs play a critical role in educating a diverse student body. HSIs enroll two-thirds of the estimated 3.8 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 students, 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.

As the nation continues to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic and looks to create a much stronger and more diverse competitive 21st Century workforce, it is critical that federal investments strengthen our workforce by enhancing the education infrastructure of HSIs to pave a path of success and opportunity for our Hispanic students.

HACU requests the following funding levels, as put forth by the House:

- **Developing Hispanic-Serving Institutions (Title V, Part A):** \$246.73 million, which is \$10 million above the Senate's FY 2023 appropriations bill.
- **Promoting Postbaccalaureate Opportunities for Hispanic Americans (Title V, Part B):** \$28.85 million
- **National Institute of Food and Agriculture HSIs Education Grants Program:** \$20 million, which is \$5 million above the Senate's FY 2023 appropriations bill.
- **Improving Undergraduate STEM Education: Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSI Program):** \$60 million, which is \$5 million above the Senate's FY 2023 appropriations bill.

I urge you to retain the funding for HSIs, as offered by the House. This funding is vital to our economy, essential to an educated workforce, and will prove to be transformational to our institutions, our students, and the communities they serve.

Thank you for considering this request. I am ready to work with you and serve as a resource. Please do not hesitate to contact me at antonio.flores@hacu.net or at 210-576-3214.

Respectfully,



Antonio R. Flores
President and CEO
Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities

cc: The Honorable Tammy Baldwin, Chair, Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies, Senate Appropriations Committee

The Honorable Jeanne Shaheen, Chair, Subcommittee on Commerce, Science, and Justice, Senate Appropriations Committee

The Honorable Patty Murray, Chair, Subcommittee on Labor, HHS, Education, Senate Appropriations Committee

The Honorable John Hoeven, Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies, Senate Appropriations Committee

The Honorable Jerry Moran, Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Commerce, Science, and Justice, House Appropriations Committee

The Honorable Roy Blunt, Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Labor, HHS, Education, Senate Appropriations Committee

The Honorable Robert Menendez, Co-Chair, Senate HSIs Caucus

The Honorable Alex Padilla, Co-Chair, Senate HSIs Caucus