

July 17, 2020

Dear Representative/Senator,

We write to reiterate the urgent need for federal assistance as our universities, and institutions across the country, prepare for fall semester.

The COVID-19 pandemic has taken a significant financial toll on Illinois' public universities. As of July 3, we estimate the total economic impact of COVID-19 on our collective universities to be \$393.5 million. This figure includes tuition and housing refunds as well as costs associated with extra support for students, purchases of hardware and software for online classes, and cleaning and medical supplies. Our universities will spend tens of millions more dollars as we commence fall operations.

The pandemic has also taken a heavy toll on students, particularly those who were already financially vulnerable. The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, enacted March 27, provided our 180,000+ students with approximately \$68.5 million in emergency financial aid grants. We are grateful for that funding, but further support is needed to help ensure they can continue and complete their educations.

As we noted in our [April 8 letter](#), we are committed to supporting the health and well-being of our students, employees and communities. As Congress continues to respond to the pandemic, additional federal relief is needed to help us meet this commitment. Specifically, we request:

- Further financial assistance for institutions of higher education and students. We support the [request made by the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities \(APLU\)](#) that Congress provide an additional \$47 billion in emergency funding for students and institutions of higher education.
- Additional funding and regulatory relief to address disruptions to research grants, which help to pay salaries. We support [APLU's request](#) for at least \$26 billion in emergency funding for federal research agencies.
- Temporary and limited liability protections to help ensure that universities acting in good faith and following applicable public health standards do not face expensive and time-consuming litigation, as detailed in the [May 28 letter](#) from higher education associations.

University of Illinois
President Timothy L. Killeen

Chicago State University
President Zaldwaynaka Scott

Eastern Illinois University
President David M. Glassman

Governors State University
President Cheryl F. Green

Illinois State University
President Larry H. Dietz

Northeastern Illinois
University
President Gloria J. Gibson

Northern Illinois University
President Lisa C. Freeman

Southern Illinois University
President Daniel F. Mahony

Western Illinois University
Interim President Martin
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- Refundable tax credits to help public institutions recoup the costs of providing expanded paid sick leave and Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) benefits for employees, as required by the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA), enacted March 18. FFCRA provided those tax credits to private employers but excluded public employers from eligibility.

We thank you for your continued efforts on behalf of Illinois.

Sincerely,



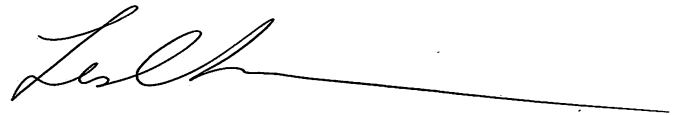
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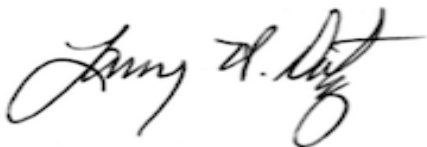
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