

weeks, before we get to the November 21 deadline, which is the new deadline now for spending—before we get to that spot, I want this issue resolved. I want government shutdowns off the table. I never want to see on any of the news channels ever again the countdown clock to when the government shuts down. That hurts the American people; it hurts American companies; and it certainly hurts the Federal families who go on furlough during that time period.

Let's stay in the ring, boxing it out, and let's hold everyone else harmless as we go through the process.

I encourage my colleagues to bring their ideas, and let's get this resolved in the next few weeks.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BRAUN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Ohio.

25TH ANNIVERSARY OF AMERICORPS

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, this fall we celebrate the 25th anniversary of AmeriCorps. Since President Kennedy challenged Americans to serve our Nation abroad in the Peace Corps in his famous University of Michigan speech, generations of Americans have recognized that our greatest strength as a nation is our compassion. But it wasn't until AmeriCorps was founded about 30 years later, 1994, that we truly addressed the need for service here at home.

When I think about the work AmeriCorps members do, I think about the words of a speaker at a Martin Luther King breakfast in my home city of Cleveland on a cold January morning, and the speaker said: Your life expectancy is connected to your ZIP Code.

Think about that. Your life expectancy is connected to your ZIP Code. Whether you grow up in Appalachia or Ohio, Indiana, whether you grow up in a city, an inner-ring city suburb, a small city like I did in Mansfield, or a small town, your ZIP Code often determines whether you have access to quality healthcare or good education and the social support necessary to succeed. Whether it is through City Year or Senior Corps or VISTA—all parts of AmeriCorps—America works to fight that and ensure that so many Americans, regardless of their ZIP Code, have the opportunity not only to succeed but to thrive.

I have seen firsthand what a difference AmeriCorps makes in people's lives. My two daughters had amazing, life-changing experiences, teaching for a year through City Year. We all benefit when we invest in organizations that serve communities that are too often left behind and when these organizations are staffed by young Americans who care about those they serve.

In Ohio, we have a City Year in Cleveland and Columbus. I have met many of these City Year volunteers and see the work they do.

AmeriCorps in my State played a major difference in the Summer Feeding Program. Literally tens and tens of thousands of children are able to eat well in the summer because of the work that AmeriCorps does.

Since 1994, more than a million Americans have served in communities across the country, serving tens of millions of Americans. All of their work will have a lasting impact on children and families, and I can't wait to see what these good AmeriCorps members will do over the next quarter century.

TRIBUTE TO JENNY DONAHUE

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I rise today not very happily, if I can say, as my employee and my friend Jenny Donahue is leaving our office to take a really big job in the U.S. House of Representatives, especially at a challenging, difficult time, and she will serve there, I assume, every bit as well as she served in the U.S. Senate.

Jenny is a middle-class kid who grew up in small town Idaho. I have not hired a lot of people in my office from Idaho, but if the next person from Idaho is this good, that will be a great thing. She graduated from the University of Montana. Moving east, she went on to become a leader in the U.S. Senate. She is a leader among communications directors. She is a leader in my office, and she is a leader in this entire body. She has left an indelible mark.

Part of being a good leader is being a good mentor. She nurtures young talent. She brings out the best in the people she works with.

My wife, Connie Schultz, who is one of Jenny's greatest admirers—and there are many great admirers of Jenny—loves to say that she is one of the most fierce advocates for young women she has ever met in her life. She also says, oftentimes, that Jenny carries as she climbs. As she moves up in life and moves up into a new position, you can bet that so many people are going to benefit from her leadership and her mentorship.

She has earned my wife's respect. That speaks such volumes about our friend Jenny. She has earned the respect of many Ohio reporters. She understands how important their work is to Ohio communities and to our democracy.

She respects journalism, understanding that journalism is about comforting the afflicted and afflicting the comfortable. She knows that without journalism—good journalism—you can't have good democracy.

She has been with me through some of the biggest moments over the past 4 years as a friend, as an adviser, and challenging me sometimes and telling me when I am wrong oftentimes but always being there in the right ways.

She has been part of the dignity of work rollout. She was part of our trip to the border to bear witness to the hu-

manitarian crisis in part caused by the President of the United States. She was part of the historic 2016 Democratic National Convention.

She helped put my vision of dignity of work on the road earlier this year, including a trip to Selma, AL. Jenny has such courage of her convictions. She is not afraid to tell me when I am wrong. She is not afraid to challenge others, always coming from a place of integrity and honesty—always.

She never does anything halfway. When she says she will do something, when she sets her mind to doing something, she does it, and she does it fully. She does it well. She does it better than pretty much anyone else could.

The day after the 2016 election, my staff was pretty stunned that a human being like Donald Trump would be in the White House; that someone with his lack of character, with his inability to tell the truth, with his treatment of women, would be President of the United States. We were all pretty stunned.

I gathered the staff in my office and told them our jobs would become that much more important. Jenny took on this charge. Jenny, who was already good before the 2016 election, took on this charge of how our work mattered, how I was one of the only selected officials in Ohio who would challenge the President's dishonesty, who would challenge the President's illegal behavior, and who would challenge the President's mean-spiritedness at the border, on the overtime rule, cutting food stamps—all the things this billionaire has done. Jenny knew how important that was. She took on this charge with a sense of responsibility and a purpose that made me proud, just like I know her parents and her grandparents are.

As she moves on to her next job in the House of Representatives, a leader in the House, as she has been in the Senate, she moves on to continue fighting for justice and the dignity of work in her new role.

Jenny, Godspeed.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO GENERAL JOHN KELLY, GENERAL JAMES MATTIS, AND GENERAL JOSEPH DUNFORD

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, this afternoon I would like to honor and recognize the important service of three men, three Marine generals who have served their country in uniform and who have served their country in the civilian world as well, who have served with honor and dignity in ways that I think deserve recognition on the floor of the U.S. Senate. They have done this service in a manner that is befitting of marines, with dignity, class, and honor. I am talking about

former Secretary of Defense Jim Mattis, former Secretary of Homeland Security and the President's Chief of Staff at the White House, Gen. John Kelly, and, lastly, I would like to recognize Gen. Joe Dunford, who, on Monday, will be stepping down as the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

I intend to be there to honor him and to witness another remarkable transition of authority and power when U.S. Army General Milley takes over in what is the most important position for a military officer in the United States of America.

It will be the end of an era, a remarkable era, for the Marine Corps—the smallest of the military services, where these three Marine generals—Kelly, Mattis, and Dunford—served with distinction, not only in the Corps as four star generals but at the highest levels of government at a critical time in our country's history.

It is a remarkable story. It is a story of service, sacrifice, and friendship. These extraordinary men rose through the levels of command together and the ranks of the Marine Corps together. They served together all over the world, including in combat in places like Fallujah, Al Kut, and Baghdad. They fought together, and they sacrificed together for our great Nation as Marine Corps officers. They then went on to serve in other ways.

The three of them have spent their whole lives in service to our country, and they have left an indelible mark, certainly, on the Marine Corps but, I believe, other institutions.

Between the three of them, they have 130 years of Active-Duty military service to America—130 years. Think about that: 130 years of Active military service to the United States of America and the Marine Corps.

They have given their all for us in a way that I think makes most Americans proud, emphasizing the ethos of the Marine Corps, which is honor, courage, and commitment, and I know they have inspired countless numbers of young men and young women across the globe in the Marines and beyond.

I am going to talk a little bit about them today.

Gen. John Kelly is a straight-talking, blunt, and fierce warrior. Before he was 16, he hitchhiked to the west coast and rode the rails back. He is then said to have joined the Merchant Marine for a year, where he is quoted as saying: "My first time overseas was taking 10,000 tons of beer to Vietnam."

In 1970, he enlisted in the Marines, where he found purpose and found a home.

Gen. Jim Mattis is a warrior, scholar, appreciator of mavericks, known for the reading lists he expects his marines to follow, who as a teenager was "a mediocre student with a partying attitude"—an attitude that landed him in jail a few times. But learning called, and then the marines called, teaching him and others how to "think like men of action, and to act like men of

thought." He is a legend in the Marine Corps. His motto in Iraq, when he led the forces there, was: "No Better Friend, No Worse Enemy than a U.S. Marine." He is the first and only marine to ever be Secretary of Defense.

Then there is the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs, Gen. Joe Dunford, who has had the Marine Corps flowing through his veins his whole life. His father served as a marine in Korea, and three of his uncles were marines in World War II. General Dunford had no doubt that he would continue that tradition.

While earning a degree from Saint Michael's College in Vermont, he was commissioned as a second lieutenant. During his career, from infantry commander to Commandant of the Marine Corps and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, he has been known for inspiring respect in combat and on the field of battle and in the corridors of Washington.

I had a brief opportunity to meet General Dunford a few times as a marine when I was in Afghanistan and he was the ISAF commander. The respect that not only marines and American servicemembers but all the allied forces there had for him was very, very apparent.

All three, as I mentioned, served in Iraq. In 2003, General Kelly was promoted to brigadier general and was the first known promotion of a Marine Corps colonel to brigadier general in an active combat zone since Chesty Puller in January of 1951. General Dunford, serving under General Mattis during the invasion, earned his own nickname of "Fighting Joe," which continued to serve him well in Washington.

So as you just saw from my colleague, the Senator from Ohio—there has been much talk today on the floor of the Senate from both sides of the aisle about character, integrity, patriotism, or, unfortunately, the lack thereof in Washington, DC, in the House and the Senate, throwing bombs at each other. But I think sometimes it is important to come down and talk about the other things—character, honor, integrity, service—because we have a lot of that as well. These three men have served our country with great distinction. They have all been succeeded by strong leaders who I am sure will carry out a similar tradition of service and dignity.

Last year, I had the great honor of being promoted to colonel in the Marine Corps Reserves. I love being in this job. It is a huge privilege to serve the people of Alaska as a U.S. Senator. But I have no doubt that the biggest honor in my life is earning the title of U.S. marine. I knew that I joined a force for good, with cords of memory and valor that stretch back to before the founding of our country. The battles that the Corps has fought in live in the heart of every marine: Montezuma, Tripoli, Belleau Wood, Peleliu, Iwo Jima, the Chosin Reservoir, Inchon, Khe Sanh, the Gulf War, Iraq, and Afghanistan. The list is very long.

The greatest lesson I have learned as a marine is what true leadership looks like, and we have seen that true leadership in the trio of officers of Kelly, Mattis, and Dunford, and I have seen it in their lives after the Marine Corps in Washington, DC. Let me talk briefly about each of them.

From his early days commanding a rifle company and serving on two aircraft carriers to commanding Task Force Tripoli during the Iraq war and leading U.S. Southern Command, General Kelly exemplified the warrior ethos of the Marine Corps.

During the early days of Task Force Tripoli, then-Major General Kelly was asked about the ability of his force to handle the Iraqi military. His response was, "Hell, these are marines. Men like them held Guadalcanal and took Iwo Jima." He had confidence, and he was right.

General Kelly is a fighter, but he also understands sacrifice. He lost troops in the field, and tragically, in 2010, he lost his own son, 1st Lt. Robert Michael Kelly, when he stepped on an IED while leading a platoon in Afghanistan. General Kelly knows sacrifice. He became the highest ranking military officer to lose his son or daughter in Iraq or Afghanistan.

After he finished his military service with distinction, he took on two of the most challenging jobs here in DC: Secretary of Homeland Security and then the Chief of Staff at the White House. He didn't seek these jobs; he was asked to serve by the President, and he did. That is something unusual in a time where so many are crawling or scheming to climb up the ladder. It is refreshing to have leaders who are sought out or chosen to lead.

It should be noted that the jobs that General Kelly took on demanded a different skill set after he took off the uniform. However, on a daily basis, in these jobs, you still take incoming; it is just not with bullets and artillery. In my view, he did an outstanding job in these two very important positions at a critical time.

Then there is General Mattis, who became our Secretary of Defense. He also did not seek that job; that job sought him. I know this for a fact because, before the election, I had the privilege of sitting down with General Mattis when he was a scholar at the Hoover Institution. I talked to him about leadership and strategy. It was a big honor for me to be able to do that in October 2016.

After the election in November of 2016, when the rumors began swirling about his being the Secretary of Defense, my first phone call to the President-elect to congratulate him also mentioned how I thought it would be a great pick to pick General Mattis as Secretary of Defense.

I believe he did an excellent job. General Mattis, as the first and only marine to ever be Secretary of Defense, played a pivotal role in redefining our national security objectives and rebuilding our military. General Mattis

played a leading role in crafting the National Security Strategy with National Security Advisor H.R. McMaster in 2017 and then literally wrote almost entirely on his own the Pentagon's 2018 National Defense Strategy. Together, these two documents have shifted our Nation's strategic focus from countering violent extremism, as we needed to do after the September 11 terrorist attacks, to recognizing the return of great power competition as the leading national security challenge for the United States, with China as the pacing threat.

It is rarely recognized by the media, but these are very bipartisan documents in that Senators—Democrats and Republicans—all believe these are very, very important. They are almost universally applauded and supported in terms of American strategy for the next several decades.

General Mattis recently published a memoir, "Call Sign Chaos," that centers on leadership and the need to sharpen the mind and the body. I think this book, which I am reading right now, is a great service to our country. "You are part of the world's most feared and trusted force," he tells his marines. "Engage your brain before you engage your weapon."

Indeed, much has been written about General Mattis's keen intellect, but, as he makes clear, reading and intellectual pursuits are not an end to themselves. They are part of the mission. They are at the heart of shaping the world's most fearsome fighting force.

In his book, he says: "If you haven't read hundreds of books, learning from others who went before you, you are functionally illiterate—you can't coach and you can't lead."

I also believe that General Mattis/Secretary Mattis did an outstanding job as Secretary of Defense. He rebuilt our military readiness, which had plummeted when defense spending was cut 25 percent from 2010 to 2015. I have walked with General Mattis/Secretary Mattis in Alaska with our military forces there, and I can tell you the troops loved him and respected him.

Finally, I want to talk about General Dunford. As I mentioned, Monday will be the last day we get to call Dunford America's Chairman of the Joint Chiefs. He is the second marine to hold this highest leadership position in the armed services. Also a student of history, he is known to be fearless and an unflappable commander.

General Mattis told a great story about how when they were serving together in Iraq—Dunford and Mattis—General Mattis watched a rocket-propelled grenade fly over Dunford's humvee and blow up about 100 yards behind him. Mattis wrote: "He [Dunford] barely glanced up and then went right back to writing his orders."

In his book, General Mattis talks more about General Dunford. He said:

He had a gift of synthesis; he could coolly evaluate the larger picture. Joe reminded me of Emperor Justinian, consistently reaching

fair conclusions and able to summarize a complex situation in a few words.

It has been precisely this ability that has allowed General Dunford to so effectively navigate the tricky, political, and military worlds in both this administration and the last one. He was nominated to be Chairman of the Joint Chiefs by President Obama and did such an outstanding job that President Trump renominated him.

These are the kinds of men and leaders I am talking about, and these are not easy times. Our country and our military are facing unprecedented challenges, and wise counsel from those in these positions is paramount—those who understand what it means to fight, what it means to be on the frontlines of conflict, and what it means to have the wisdom sometimes not to fight. General Dunford has provided that wisdom.

Harlan Ullman, a combat veteran and a U.S. Naval Academy graduate, was recently quoted in an article about General Dunford where he said: He has been one of the best Joint Chiefs of Staff America has ever had.

According to Ullman, Dunford has been able to successfully navigate difficult times with regard to national security and challenges to our Nation in civil and military relations.

With all the other challenges this country has to face, it is important to recognize these kinds of leaders.

I also want to mention how General Dunford is known not only for his keen intellect but also for his compassion. He was known to personally write letters to the parents of his marines who were killed in action. He was the person who went to General Kelly's home to tell him that his own son had been killed in battle in Afghanistan, and later, he wore a Team Kelly shirt when he ran the Boston Marathon.

I have seen that personal compassion in my own life. It is a story I will end with with regard to all three of these men, and it involves a young lance corporal from Alaska named Grant Fraser.

Who is Grant Fraser? In high school in Anchorage, he was an actor who loved the works of Homer and Shakespeare. He was a mountain biker, a skier, a pianist, a scuba diver, a rock climber, a tennis player, a light-hearted, mischievous young man, and then he surprised family and friends when he joined the Marines. While still in college, because he wanted challenges and he knew he would thrive in the Marine Corps—and he did thrive in the Marine Corps—he planned on coming back home to work as a paramedic with the Anchorage Fire Department.

On August 3, 2005, in Anbar Province, Iraq, Grant Fraser was on a mission—Operation Quick Strike—to avenge the killing of his fellow marines when his vehicle was hit by a massive improvised explosive device. He was 22 years old when he made the ultimate sacrifice.

I love our military, but sometimes it can be bureaucratic and very bone-

headed. It took 11 long years and the tenacious, beautiful spirit of Grant Fraser's mom, Sharon Long, for this young marine to get a proper burial at Arlington Cemetery.

Two days before the funeral in 2016, I was sitting next to General Dunford at a dinner. I told him about Grant's heroism and Sharon Long's heroic perseverance to get her son buried at Arlington.

On an overcast day, September 30, 2016, as friends, family, and fellow marines were gathering to put Grant Fraser to rest at Arlington National Cemetery, a marine four-star general in his dress blues appeared solemnly on the sidelines. The most important member of the U.S. military decided to move his schedule and come to the funeral of this lance corporal.

I had the opportunity to introduce him to Sharon Long. The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs told me that he couldn't sleep the night before, thinking about how long it took for her to bury her son, and he felt that he just had to attend to pay his respects to this marine.

I have been to a lot of funerals in my Marine Corps career, but this was the most moving funeral I ever attended. It was moving because on that day, rank didn't matter and medals didn't matter; we were all just Americans—with the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff—grieving the loss of one of our own.

General Mattis wrote, "No Marine is ever alone—he carries with him the spirit passed on from generations before him. Group spirit—that electric force field of emotion—infuses and binds warriors together."

These three men—Mattis, Kelly, and Dunford—have brought that spirit, that higher calling, not just to the Marine Corps but to America and the highest levels of government, and we should all be thankful.

We in the Senate confirm these men and women on a regular basis—people willing to serve their country—but we rarely thank them on the floor. So from one U.S. Senator who has watched the careers of these remarkable three men closely and appreciates what they have done, not just in uniform but after they have taken off the uniform, I want to thank them for their honor, courage, commitment, sacrifice, and example to thousands if not millions of Americans and marines and for keeping us safe.

So to Generals Mattis, Kelly, and Dunford, thank you. *Semper Fidelis*.

I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

MR. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, I want to start by saluting my friend, our colleague, the Senator from Alaska, for his moving and powerful statement and for his service as a marine and now a Senator from Alaska. It has been a great honor to work with him on many issues, including national security issues.

I thank you.

FUTURE ACT

Mr. President, earlier today on this Senate floor, our colleague, the junior Senator from Alabama, Mr. JONES, asked unanimous consent for the immediate passage of the FUTURE Act.

The FUTURE Act is an important bill that is essential to the success of minority-serving colleges and universities across the country, including historically Black colleges and universities.

The House bill passed within the last couple weeks. The bill number is H.R. 2486, and it is at the Senate desk, meaning we could take it up and pass it at any moment if the leader would simply allow us to vote on that measure. What it does is it extends an existing mandatory funding program that provides essential resources to these underresourced schools.

We, as the Congress, the Senate and House, Republicans and Democrats, recognize on a bipartisan basis the value of these institutions of higher learning and the importance of this mandatory funding because we enacted this program a number of years ago on a bipartisan basis. The goal was to make sure that we provided additional resources for academic pursuits, to improve management, and to ensure that they had the resources for high-demand areas of study in the areas of science, technology, engineering, and math—the STEM disciplines.

In my State of Maryland, we have four terrific HBCUs: Morgan State, Bowie State, Coppin State, and the University of Maryland Eastern Shore. We also have a number of other schools with a high number of students receiving need-based aid, like Allegany College in Western Maryland and the College of Southern Maryland. All of these colleges and universities need the resources that are provided through the FUTURE Act.

It not only has a bipartisan heritage, but right now in the Senate, it has a bipartisan cosponsorship. In fact, Senator SCOTT is the lead Republican on this bill. It passed the House of Representatives unanimously on a voice vote.

The reason I am on the floor now and the reason the Senator from Alabama, Senator JONES, asked for unanimous consent to take this up and vote on it earlier today is because the current mandatory program expires on Monday. It expires at the end of this month. There is no reason for delaying action. It is possible that we can buy ourselves a little bit more time with respect to the funding, but there is no reason that we should put this important program at risk.

I have a number of letters. In fact, I have 43 letters from 34 schools and advocacy organizations supporting this bill. I ask unanimous consent to have some of them printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR EQUAL OPPORTUNITY IN HIGHER EDUCATION,

September 1, 2019.

Hon. MITCH MCCONNELL,
Majority Leader, U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

Hon. CHUCK SCHUMER,
Minority Leader, U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

DEAR LEADER MCCONNELL AND LEADER SCHUMER: In less than two weeks, congressional authority and vitally needed funding for Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), Predominantly Black Institutions (PBIs), Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs) Hispanic-serving Institutions (HSIs), Asian American, Native American, and Pacific Islander-serving Institutions (AANAPISIs), will end, unless Congress acts by September 30, 2019, to extend the authority and funding. Yesterday, the United States House of Representatives moved the Nation toward extending the funding for another two years, when it voted with bipartisan support, to pass the Fostering Undergraduate Talent by Unlocking Resources for Education (FUTURE) Act, a bipartisan measure to preserve funding for the referenced quintessential American equal educational opportunity institutions.

I am writing as President & CEO of the National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education (NAFEO). I am writing to respectfully request and urge that you schedule for a vote the Senate companion of the House-passed FUTURE Act, introduced by Senators Tim Scott (SC) and Doug Jones (AL), and that you support this measure that has made critical investments in HBCUs and MSIs, enabling them to graduate more excellent and diverse students, disproportionate low-income, first generation and underrepresented minority students, in growth and high need disciplines. With your support the Senate FUTURE Act will pass.

The FUTURE Act will be wholly paid for. It preserves and extends vital investments in institutions that collectively enroll more than 4.8 million undergraduate students in the U.S.—one-quarter of all students—and represent over 800 richly diverse American universities: 106 Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), 50 Predominantly Black Institutions (PBIs); 523 Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs), 37 Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs), and over 200 Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institutions (AANAPISIs), including Kentucky State University, and CUNY Medgar Evers College, CUNY York College, CUNY LaGuardia, CUNY New York City College of Technology, Metropolitan College of New York, and Long Island University-Brooklyn Campus.

As you know, HBCUs, PBIs, HSIs, TCUs, and AANAPISIs are an essential part of America's higher education system. For the past decade, Title III, Part F has played a vital role in strengthening their capacity and increasing credentialing and degree attainment, including in important STEM fields. If this critical funding stream is allowed to expire on September 30, 2019, millions of students will be left behind, in the margins of our nation, without the opportunity to earn a college degree or credential. Please do not let this happen. Title III, Part F is the lifeblood for these institutions. The most certain way, the most effective and efficient way of extending the only mandatory congressional funding for HBCUs and MSIs, is to vote for the Senate companion of the House-passed FUTURE Act, introduced by Senators Scott (SC) and Jones (AL). Please

lead the United States Senate in making this happen.

Sincerely,

LEZLI BASKERVILLE,
President & CEO.

UNITED NEGRO COLLEGE FUND, INC.,
September 19, 2019.

Hon. MITCH MCCONNELL,
Majority Leader, U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

Hon. CHARLES E. SCHUMER,
Minority Leader, U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

Hon. LAMAR ALEXANDER,
Chairman, Senate Health, Education, Labor,
and Pensions (HELP) Committee,
Washington, DC.

Hon. PATTY MURRAY,
Ranking Member, Senate Health, Education,
Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MAJORITY LEADER MCCONNELL, MINORITY LEADER SCHUMER, CHAIRMAN ALEXANDER, AND RANKING MEMBER MURRAY: UNCF (the United Negro College Fund, Inc.) submits this letter urging you to cosponsor, support, and pass the House-passed H.R. 2486, the Fostering Undergraduate Talent by Unlocking Resources for Education (FUTURE) Act. This bipartisan, bicameral bill passed the House Floor on September 17th by voice vote and has now been sent to the Senate for consideration.

UNCF is a non-profit organization with a mission to build a robust and nationally recognized pipeline of underrepresented students who, because of UNCF support, become highly-qualified college graduates and to ensure that our network of 37-member, private Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) is a respected model of best practice in moving students to and through college.

The 101 HBCUs that exist today are valuable institutions with a large economic footprint. Despite only representing 3 percent of all two- and four-year non-profit colleges and universities, HBCUs (1) enroll 10 percent of all African American undergraduates; (2) produce 17 percent of all African American college graduates with bachelor's degrees; and (3) graduate 21 percent of all African Americans with bachelor's degrees in STEM fields. Moreover, these institutions have a strong economic impact, especially on the regions in which they are located, by creating 134,090 jobs, producing \$10.1 billion in terms of gross regional product, and having a total annual economic impact of \$14.8 billion.

Despite the large economic impact of these institutions, they continue to be underresourced and have endowments that lag behind those of non-HBCUs by at least 70 percent. Unfortunately, this is common for HBCUs and Congress has recognized this and sought out ways to find parity between HBCUs and non-HBCUs. One strategic way in attempting to help HBCUs receive adequate resources was initially through the College Cost and Reduction Act of 2007. This bill allowed for HBCUs, Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs), Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs), and other Minority-Serving Institutions (MSIs) to receive \$255 million annually in mandatory funds for Fiscal Year (FY) 2008 and FY 2009. These mandatory funds were directed in the Higher Education Act of 1965 to be used solely for science, technology, education, and mathematics (STEM) education, among other uses largely centered around STEM. Instead of allowing this funding stream to expire, Congress continued to recognize the need of these institutions to offer quality STEM programs on their campuses and continued this funding stream in the Student Aid Fiscal Responsibility Act (SAFRA) of 2009. SAFRA extended funding