

among other disciplines. The longer we wait to give certainty to these universities, the more institutions will be left with no choice but to begin winding-down programs that materially benefit students and employees alike, and strip away the institutional knowledge bases that our schools have built over time with the support of Title III, Part F.

While we welcome a potential long-term or “permanent” solution to Title III, Part F, what we are hearing from our campuses is clear—they simply do not have the time to wait for Congress to work out a deal, particularly on bills that have an uncertain future in both houses of Congress. Therefore, the Thurgood Marshall College Fund (TMCf) strongly encourages the Senate to finally take-up the House-passed, bi-partisan and bicameral FUTURE Act immediately and pass the bill before permanent damage is done to our campuses. This course of action is the cleanest and most expedient way to provide immediate certainty to our nation’s HBCUs and MSIs.

Following the Senate’s passage of FUTURE Act, TMCf looks forward to working with leaders on both sides of the aisle to develop a longer-term solution for Title III, Part F, and for other HEA-related issues in a broader bill like the Student Aid Improvement Act or a comprehensive HEA reauthorization that includes the permanent extension of Title III, Part F funds.

Sincerely,

DR. HARRY L. WILLIAMS,
President & CEO.

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

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

Hon. LAMAR ALEXANDER,
*Chairman, Senate Health, Education, Labor,
and Pensions (HELP) Committee, Wash-
ington, DC.*

Hon. CHUCK SCHUMER,
*Minority Leader, U.S. Senate,
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 cre-

ating 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 under-resourced 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 for these institutions from FY 2009 to FY 2019 at \$255 million annually and was included in the Health Care Reconciliation Act of 2010 that ultimately passed both the House and Senate to become law. Every vote taken on the mandatory funding stream for these institutions has been bipartisan, and it is our desire to have the same outcome for H.R. 2486.

It is imperative that the Senate pass the FUTURE Act because funding for HBCUs, TCUs, HSIs, and other MSIs expires September 30, 2019. While we support a permanent extension of mandatory funding, H.R. 2486, due to its passage in the House of Representatives, is the surest way for these institutions to maintain funding for FY 2020 and FY 2021. We strongly believe that passing this bill now will address the immediate funding needs of our institutions and allow Congress to continue to work towards a permanent extension of this funding moving forward.

Should you have any additional questions regarding this letter, please feel free to reach out to Emmanuel Guillory, Director of Public Policy and Government Affairs.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL L. LOMAX, PH.D.,
President and CEO.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. I just underscore the fact, with respect to the chairman, that the best judge of what is good for HBCUs, I think, is HBCUs. They are worried because they are already having to provide notice to their professors and their staff that funding might not be available next year. I know, in the Senate, sometimes we think that no one needs to plan ahead, but most of the world needs to plan ahead.

We will be back on this floor in the future again, asking that we pass this urgent matter.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from West Virginia.

REMEMBERING CHARLES T. JONES

Mr. MANCHIN. Mr. President, I am here to recognize an unbelievable indi-

vidual who contributed so much to my home State and to our country.

My home State of West Virginia has lost a beloved family man, a noble veteran, a legendary businessman, a very proud West Virginian, and a very dear friend.

President John Kennedy, when visiting our State during our centennial in 1963, said: “The sun does not always shine in West Virginia, but the people always do.”

Charles T. Jones, whom we called “Captain Charlie,” exemplified this, and his light will forever shine through the many people who knew and loved him best. He was truly one of a kind. He was one of the most warm, kind people I ever had the privilege of knowing.

Last year, I had the privilege of submitting a CONGRESSIONAL RECORD statement for Charlie’s 100th birthday. He credited his longevity to good genes, good luck, a great wife, and very supportive family, colleagues, and friends.

Charlie was an innovator. He always had ideas for how to make something better or run more smoothly, making him a joy to work with and to work for.

There is no greater reward in life than to be in a position to give back to the place that made you who you are. While he grew up on the banks of the Kanawha River in West Virginia, Charlie attended school in New Jersey, later earning a degree in business from Babson Institute in Massachusetts.

Charlie then served his country in the U.S. Navy during World War II with the Navy Seabees in Guadalcanal and on a minesweeper as an engineering officer off the coast of Japan and the Philippines.

After the war’s end, Charlie came home to West Virginia and went to work for his family’s coking coal business—Star Coal and Coke Company—which later became Amherst Coal Company in 1946. That was the company his grandfather started in 1893.

Due to the downturn in production of and demand for coking coal, out of necessity, the company ventured into river transportation. In 1951, the family bought the Hatfield-Campbell Creek Coal Company, a business that operated steamboats, barges, and river terminals along the Kanawha and Ohio Rivers. He took over the river operations of the company and renamed them Amherst Barge Company. Along the way, the company became Madison Coal & Supply Company and is now known as Amherst Madison and still specializes in marine services like towing, construction, shipping, and equipment repairs. Amherst and its affiliated companies have proudly employed thousands of Virginians over the past 70 years.

Charlie was one of the most hard-working, humble, and giving people the Mountain State has ever known and was a longtime supporter of many business, charitable, and community organizations throughout the Kanawha

Valley. Over the years, he served on numerous boards and committees, including the Yeager Airport Authority Board, Board of Trustees for the University of Charleston, Chairman Emeritus of the Inland Waterways Users Board, Trustee Emeritus of the West Virginia Chapter of the Nature Conservancy, Director Emeritus of the Mariners' Museum, past Chairman of the West Virginia Mining and Reclamation Association, former Director of the Charleston Area Medical Center Foundation, One Valley Bancorp, the Western Pocahontas Corporation, Ohio Valley Improvement Association, and so many more.

In recent years, Charlie was honored as a Distinguished West Virginian by the Governor, entered into the Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels by the people of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, inducted into the West Virginia University College of Business and Economics Business Hall of Fame, and recognized as a West Virginia "Who's Who" by the State Journal.

Additionally, he received previous honors, such as the Charleston YMCA's Spirit of the Valley Award, induction into the Coal Mining Hall of Fame, Charleston Gazette-Mail's West Virginian of the Year, Seamen's Church Institute Lifetime Achievement Award, and the National Rivers Hall of Fame Achievement Award, to name only a few.

Put simply, Charlie was a regular Renaissance man. What stands out about Charlie's character was he that he was beloved by those who worked with him and knew him. He was compassionate and considerate and was also a strong leader and motivator with an unparalleled work ethic. It was an honor to call him a friend.

Once again, Gayle and I send our deepest condolences to his children, Laura Jones Pray, C. Tandy Jones, and Jennifer Jones. I am honored to join each of you in remembering Charlie's legacy, as well as the unwavering love he had for his loved ones, community, and, most importantly, our home State.

I know he and Mary Ellen and their son Nelson are looking down on each of them fondly today.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida.

VENEZUELA

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about the crisis in Venezuela, a defining human rights issue of our time. Nicolas Maduro is starving his own people, and innocent children are dying. What is happening in Venezuela is pure genocide. With every day that passes, the situation in Venezuela grows more dire.

I will not stand by and let Maduro continue terrorizing his people. I will not let Democrats in Congress use the Venezuelan people as a political prop. I will not allow the inaction to continue.

Americans have always stood up for freedom, and today is no exception. That is why I am here again to ask unanimous consent to pass my amendment to H.R. 549, granting temporary protective status for Venezuelans fleeing Nicolas Maduro's oppressive regime. Even though Senate Democrats blocked the same proposal last month, I refuse to give up. I stand with the proud Venezuelans.

My proposal has the support of all Senate Republicans. I believe that the President will sign this into law. It is the only solution that stands a chance of becoming law. We have to act.

We also need to be responsible. The courts have, basically, made a temporary program permanent, which is not sustainable. Despite what some confused Democrats, including Speaker PELOSI may say, the "T" in TPS actually does mean "temporary."

In addition to protecting Venezuelan people right now, my amendment makes much needed reforms to our TPS program and returns the program to its intended purpose. We want those seeking refuge from war and oppressive regimes to have a safe haven in our country, but we need a system that works and is truly temporary. We need to act now to save the Venezuelan people.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to address the Senate in Spanish.

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

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. (English translation of the statement made in Spanish is as follows:)

We need TPS now.

I stand with the people of Venezuela, and I will continue to fight for freedom and democracy in Latin America.

It is time for Maduro and his thugs to leave power.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST— H.R. 549

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration and that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 549. I ask unanimous consent that my amendment at the desk be agreed to, that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed, and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CRAMER). Is there objection?

The Senator from Maryland.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, in reserving the right to object, I share the concerns expressed by my colleague, the Senator from Florida, about the situation in Venezuela.

I have met with many of my constituents of Venezuelan heritage and have discussed with them the crises that their relatives back in Venezuela face every day—shortages of food, water, medicine, and state-sponsored violence, which has caused 4.3 million people to flee the country.

That is exactly why I joined many of my colleagues in supporting legislation from many months ago of granting temporary protected status to people who flee the horror in Venezuela. Of course, the House of Representatives passed legislation to do exactly that. I have a copy of H.R. 549 in my hand, and it is sitting here in the U.S. Senate.

I say to my colleague, the Senator from Florida, that I am happy to sit down with him and discuss how we can revise and reform the entire TPS system in our going forward. In fact, I introduced legislation back in March of this year, S. 879, to extend temporary protected status to all of the people who are, right now, in great fear of being deported from the United States when their protected statuses expire. Yet I recognize there may be reforms we can make to the overall system.

I suggest that a bill that is just focused on TPS to Venezuela is not the place to try to reform the entire TPS system, about which I am more than happy to have a discussion. As the Senator knows, we have people with TPS status from many countries, including El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Haiti, and a number of African countries. To try to overhaul the entire system in one piece of legislation by passing something right now for Venezuela doesn't make a lot of sense, which is why I support what the House did, for it immediately addresses the situation in Venezuela with our current TPS system.

Let's not try to rewrite the whole TPS set of rules now. Let's address the emergency situation right now. The Senate can do that by passing the House bill, which, in a moment, I will ask to take up.

I object to the Senator's request to pass this version, which also tries to overhaul the entire TPS system.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Maryland.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration and that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 549. I ask unanimous consent that my amendment at the desk be agreed to, that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed, and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to withdraw my unanimous consent request.

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

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST— H.R. 549

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 549