

April 8, 2019

The Hon. Todd Young  
U.S. Senator  
400 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Hon. Michael Bennet  
U.S. Senator  
261 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Hon. Tim Scott  
U.S. Senator  
104 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Young, Senator Bennet, and Senator Scott,

As local, state, and national organizations committed to investing in what works, we are writing to express our support for the Fund for Innovation and Success in Higher Education (FINISH) Act.

American colleges and universities have great untapped potential to increase economic opportunity and strengthen our democracy. Yet, despite the fact that a growing number of higher education institutions and their partners have developed an increasing number of evidence-based solutions, we must accelerate this progress more broadly across the country.

We commend you for introducing the FINISH Act, which would leverage the power of evidence and innovation to improve outcomes in higher education. Specifically, we appreciate the inclusion of provisions in your legislation that would:

- create a tiered-evidence innovation fund that would test, replicate, and scale up successful approaches to improving access to and completion in higher education, including partnerships among states, nonprofits, K-12 institutions, and institutions of higher education;
- encourage institutions of higher education to create open educational resources, materials for teaching or learning that are in the public domain or have been released under a license that allows them to be freely used, changed, or shared with others;
- authorize 5 pilot Pay for Success initiatives that would invest federal funds in proven solutions once they demonstrate results; and
- authorize the U.S. Department of Education and Institute of Education Sciences to invest up to 1 percent of federal higher education funds in evaluations to continuously improve their impact and results.

We believe that strategic investments in innovation, evidence-based practices, and evaluations have the potential to help many more students access and succeed in higher education.

Thank you for your continued efforts to ensure that federal taxpayer dollars are invested in what works in higher education.

Sincerely,

A+ Colorado  
 Abriendo Puertas/Opening Doors  
 Alliance for Excellent Education  
 America Forward  
 America's Promise  
 AppleTree Institute for Education Innovation  
 Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM)  
 Bard College  
 Bay Path University  
 Boston Plan for Excellence  
 Bottom Line  
 BPC Action  
 Braven  
 California Association for Bilingual Education  
 Cascade Philanthropy Advisors, Inc.  
 Center for Research and Reform in Education, Johns Hopkins University  
 Center for the Social Organization of Schools, Johns Hopkins University  
 Chiefs for Change  
 Citizen Schools  
 City Year  
 Civic Enterprises  
 College Forward  
 College Possible  
 Colorado Succeeds  
 Communities In Schools National  
 Community Training and Assistance Center (CTAC)  
 Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH)  
 Delta State University  
 Democracy Builders  
 Diverse Charter Schools Coalition  
 EdAllies (MN)  
 EDGE Consulting  
 Educate Texas  
 Education Analytics  
 Education Northwest  
 Education Research & Development Institute  
 EdVoice  
 EFFICACITY, LLC  
 Everyone Graduates Center  
 Eye to Eye National  
 FareStart  
 Farmingdale State College SUNY  
 Forum for Youth Investment  
 Friends of the Children  
 GreenLight Fund  
 Higher Learning Advocates  
 Hunger Task Force  
 IDEA Public Schools  
 iMentor  
 Institute for Child Success  
 Institute for Higher Education Policy (IHEP)  
 Jobs for the Future  
 Juma Ventures  
 JVS-Boston  
 KIPP  
 Knowledge Alliance  
 KnowledgeWorks  
 LIFT  
 Literacy Design Collaborative  
 Local Initiatives Support Corporation  
 Marzano Research  
 Maycomb Capital  
 McREL International  
 MENTOR: The National Mentoring Partnership  
 Millionair Club Charity  
 Montgomery County Schools (NC)  
 New America  
 New Classrooms  
 New Leaders  
 New Profit  
 Nonprofit Finance Fund  
 Project Evident  
 Quantified Ventures  
 RecycleForce  
 Reinvestment Fund  
 Research Institute for Key Indicators LLC  
 Research-Aligned Mentorship Program at Farmingdale State College SUNY  
 Results for America  
 RMC Research  
 Roca  
 Root Cause  
 Service Year Alliance  
 Social Finance  
 Sorenson Impact Center  
 Stand for Children  
 Stand for Children Colorado  
 Stand for Children Washington  
 Success for All Foundation  
 Teach For America  
 Teach Plus Colorado  
 Tennessee SCORE  
 Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi  
 The College of New Rochelle  
 The Dibble Institute  
 The Education Trust  
 The Institute for College Access and Success (TICAS)  
 The Policy & Research Group  
 Third Sector  
 Third Way  
 TNTP  
 uAspire  
 Unidos US  
 University System of Maryland  
 Venture Philanthropy Partners  
 Wake Technical Community College

Western Interstate Commission for Higher  
Education  
Year Up

John Bridgeland, former Director of the White  
House Domestic Policy Council (Pres. G.W.  
Bush), and CEO, Civic, LLC

Lynn Cominsky, Professor and Chair, School of  
Education, Sonoma State University

Benjamin Harris, KPPI Executive Director,  
Kellogg School of Management,  
Northwestern University

Doug Harris, Professor of Economics, Tulane  
University

Kevin Madden, former Senior Advisor and  
Spokesman, Gov. Mitt Romney presidential  
campaign, and Partner, Hamilton Place  
Strategies

Brian Merritt, Vice President, Learning &  
Workforce Development, and Chief  
Academic Officer, Central Carolina  
Community College

Cecilia Muñoz, former Director of the White  
House Domestic Policy Council (Pres.  
Obama), and Vice President, New America

Joshua Ogburn, Director, University of Virginia  
Pay for Success Lab

Joshua Powers, Professor of Higher Education  
Leadership, Indiana State University

Bruce Reed, former Assistant to the President  
and Chief of Staff (V.P. Joe Biden), former  
Director, White House Domestic Policy  
Council (Pres. Clinton), and Co-Founder,  
Civic, LLC

Timothy Renick, Senior Vice President for  
Student Success, Georgia State University

Diane Schanzenbach, Director, Institute for  
Policy Research, Northwestern University

Matt Segneri, Director, Harvard Business School  
Social Enterprise Initiative

Robert Shea, former Associate Director, White  
House Office of Management and Budget,  
and Principal, Public Sector, Grant  
Thornton, LLP

Kathryn Stack, former Deputy Associate Director  
and Senior Advisor, U.S. Office of  
Management and Budget

Paul Tchounwou, Associate Dean and  
Presidential Distinguished Professor,  
Jackson State University

Jennifer Wade-Berg, Associate Professor,  
Kennesaw State University

Martin R. West, Professor of Education, Harvard  
Graduate School of Education