

July 26, 2019

The Hon. Ben McAdams
U.S. Representative
130 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Hon. Ronald Wright
U.S. Representative
428 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative McAdams and Representative Wright,

As local, state, and national organizations committed to investing in what works, we are writing to express our strong 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;
- 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 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 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
iNACOL
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
Reading Partners
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
U.S. Chamber of Commerce
Venture Philanthropy Partners
Wake Technical Community College
Western Interstate Commission for Higher
Education
Year Up
YouthBuild
Benjamin Harris, KPPI Executive Director,
Kellogg School of Management,
Northwestern University
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
Bruce Reed, former Assistant to the
President and Chief of Staff (V.P. Joe
Biden), and former Director, White House
Domestic Policy Council (Pres. Clinton)
Diane Schanzenbach, Director, Institute for
Policy Research, Northwestern University
Doug Harris, Professor of Economics,
Tulane University
Jennifer Wade-Berg, Associate Professor,
Kennesaw State University
John Bridgeland, former Director of the
White House Domestic Policy Council
(Pres. G.W. Bush), and CEO, Civic, LLC
Joshua Ogburn, Director, University of
Virginia Pay for Success Lab
Joshua Powers, Professor of Higher
Education Leadership, Indiana State
University
Kathryn Stack, former Deputy Associate
Director and Senior Advisor, U.S. Office of
Management and Budget
Kevin Madden, former Senior Advisor and
Spokesman, Gov. Mitt Romney presidential
campaign, and Partner, Hamilton Place
Strategies
Lynn Cominsky, Professor and Chair,
School of Education, Sonoma State
University
Martin R. West, Professor of Education,
Harvard Graduate School of Education
Matt Segneri, Director, Harvard Business
School Social Enterprise Initiative
Paul Tchounwou, Associate Dean and
Presidential Distinguished Professor,
Jackson State University
Robert Shea, former Associate Director,
White House Office of Management and
Budget, and Principal, Public Sector, Grant
Thornton, LLP
Timothy Renick, Senior Vice President for
Student Success, Georgia State University

