

February 11, 2021

The Honorable Mikie Sherrill  
U.S. Representative  
1414 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Katko  
U.S. Representative  
2428 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Sherrill and Representative Katko:

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;
- 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 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  
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  
Millionaire Club Charity  
Montgomery County Schools (NC)  
New America Higher Education Program  
New Classrooms  
New Leaders  
New Profit  
Nonprofit Finance Fund  
Project Evident  
Quantified Ventures  
RecycleForce  
Reinvestment Fund  
Research Institute for Key Indicators LLC  
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  
University System of Maryland  
Venture Philanthropy Partners  
Wake Technical Community College  
Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education  
Year Up

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

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

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

