



February 14, 2022

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker of the House  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Room H-305, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Minority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Room H-204, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chuck Schumer  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Room S-221, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
Room S-230, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Leader McCarthy, Leader Schumer and Leader McConnell:

After working and consulting with UNCF, the Thurgood Marshall College Fund, and the National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education, the American Council on Education and the undersigned associations and organizations write to seek your assistance on an urgent matter of national importance.

In recent weeks, Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) have been subjected to repeated, systematic threats to their students and campuses. These acts of terror deliberately strike at institutions that have a unique significance to Black Americans and to American higher education. HBCUs are targeted precisely because they serve as powerful symbols of Black Americans' strength and achievement. All of America's colleges and universities pledge to do everything we can to support and enhance these incredible institutions.

Regrettably, threats like this are nothing new for HBCUs and their communities. They have faced, and faced down, too many attacks over time, are rightfully proud of their legacy, and will not be deterred by more threats of violence.

Just because attacks like these recent bomb threats are not new does not mean we must not act. We appreciate that the FBI and other law enforcement agencies are actively investigating these threats. But we also need action from Congress in this moment.

First, these crimes must be fully and aggressively investigated, and the offenders prosecuted in accordance with the grievous harm they have caused. We urge you to work with your congressional colleagues and the Administration to ensure that is the case.

Second, we ask you to immediately pass H.Con.Res. 70 to put Congress on record on this matter of national importance.

Finally, the egregious nature of these crimes, their scope and scale, and the racist motivations behind them deserve specific attention. Congress has both the unique authority and responsibility to address this. For this reason, we request you hold congressional hearings on an expedited basis, with a focus on the persistent issues underlying these crimes and how to prevent future occurrences.

We reiterate that for too many of our students and colleagues, the threats against HBCUs across the country are a reminder of the reality of racial violence and inequities that are present every day. Congress can take meaningful action to address the very real harm that has been caused. We urge you to do so, and quickly.

Sincerely,



Ted Mitchell  
President

On behalf of:

Achieving the Dream  
ACPA-College Student Educators International  
ACT  
American Association of Colleges and Universities  
American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education  
American Association of Colleges of Nursing  
American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers  
American Association of Community Colleges  
American Association of State Colleges and Universities  
American Association of University Professors  
American College Health Association  
American Council on Education  
American Dental Education Association  
American Federation of Teachers  
American Indian Higher Education Consortium  
APPA, "Leadership in Educational Facilities"  
Association of American Universities  
Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities  
Association of Community College Trustees  
Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges  
Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities  
Association of Public and Land-grant Universities  
Association of Research Libraries  
Center for American Progress  
Coalition of Urban and Metropolitan Universities  
College Board  
Common App

Consortium of Universities of the Washington Metropolitan Area  
Council for Advancement and Support of Education  
Council for Higher Education Accreditation  
Council for Opportunity in Education  
Council of Graduate Schools  
Council of Independent Colleges  
Council on Social Work Education  
EDUCAUSE  
ETS  
Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce  
Georgia Budget and Policy Institute  
Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities  
Institution for Higher Education Policy  
KIPP Public Schools  
NAFSA: Association of International Educators  
NASPA - Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education  
National Association for College Admission Counseling  
National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education  
National Association of College and University Business Officers  
National Association of Colleges and Employers  
National Association of Diversity Officers in Higher Education  
National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities  
National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators  
National Association of System Heads  
National Collegiate Athletic Association  
National Council of University Research Administrators  
National Education Association  
New America Higher Education Program  
Phi Beta Kappa Society  
SACSCOC  
Silicon Valley Leadership Group  
State Higher Education Executive Officers Association  
The Education Trust  
The Hope Center for College, Community, and Justice  
The Institute for College Access & Success  
Third Way  
Thurgood Marshall College Fund  
UNCF  
Yes We Must Coalition

Cc: The Honorable Patty Murray  
The Honorable Richard Burr  
The Honorable Bobby Scott  
The Honorable Virginia Foxx  
The Honorable Jerrold Nadler  
The Honorable Jim Jordan  
The Honorable Dick Durbin  
The Honorable Chuck Grassley