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February 27, 2017

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20006

Dear President Trump,

This week, leaders of Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) will be in Washington, D.C., visiting the White House and Capitol Hill, to discuss policies and priorities for protecting and strengthening their institutions. These are schools that the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) has a longstanding involvement with and commitment to helping. The 49 members of the CBC represent or are affiliated with over 90 HBCUs and we hope that their meeting at the White House represents a real commitment to supporting these schools.

These institutions are foundational parts of our educational system and the positive effects they have on this nation are undeniable. They provide opportunities and access to high-quality higher education that other schools don't and serve as cultural cornerstones and economic engines of communities across the country. In fact, ninety percent of African-Americans who earn bachelor's degrees in STEM subjects graduate from HBCUs. Half of all African-American teachers and forty percent of all black health professionals graduate from HBCUs as well.

We are pleased that Republicans in Congress recognize the importance and history of HBCUs and have recently expressed such a strong interest in helping them. We hope your Administration has the same interest. If you are serious about helping these schools, then this meeting is not a photo op. It is a real opportunity to make a real impact on the lives of real Americans.

As the President of the United States, your actions speak loud and clear, your budget reflects your values, and federal agencies follow your guidance. So, you have an opportunity to create positive change that will have generational effects if you follow the talk at the table with action from your Administration. Things like increasing the maximum Pell Grant award and doubling the funding for Pell Grants, doubling Title III funding, or providing two years of tuition-free education at HBCUs would all have incredible, positive effects and show that you are serious about living up to your promise to be a president for all Americans.



420 Cannon House Office Building • Washington, DC 20515

[HTTPS://CBC-RICHMOND.HOUSE.GOV](https://CBC-RICHMOND.HOUSE.GOV)

Additionally, attached is a list of some of the HBCU-related legislation that CBC members have authored. Urging Republicans in Congress, especially Republican leadership, to support this legislation is another way to live up to your promise to be a president for all Americans.

In your recent weekly address to the nation, you recognized the achievements of HBCUs and promised that they would start getting “the credit they deserve.” While we appreciate the recognition, the credit they deserve is not enough without the resources they deserve to back it up. Without action, credit is just an empty gesture. We hope this meeting is not an empty gesture. We hope that you and your Administration are serious about supporting these schools. The way to show that you are is to not only talk the talk, but walk the walk. Give these schools the resources and support they deserve and that they and the CBC are asking for. Show the nation that you are serious about your commitment to be the President for all Americans. If you do, we stand ready to work with you to get things through Congress that help these schools.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "C. Richmond", with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Cedric L. Richmond

Chair, Congressional Black Caucus

Attachment: List of policies and bills to strengthen HBCUs.

- Increase affordability of education at HBCUs
 - H.R. 2962 America's College Promise Act of 2015 Sponsor: Rep Scott, Robert C. "Bobby" [D-VA-3] (introduced 7/8/2015)
 - H.R.4661 - Parent PLUS Loan Improvement Act of 2016 (114th Congress) Introduced by: Congresswoman Marcia L. Fudge
- Improve federal financial support of HBCUs
 - H.R.295 To reauthorize the Historically Black Colleges and Universities Historic Preservation program. Sponsor: Rep Clyburn, James E. [D-SC-6] (introduced 1/13/2015) **PASSED HOUSE**
- Support 1890 Land-Grant Institutions
 - Improve the required state funding
 - H.R.3828 Land-Grant Opportunity Act Sponsor: Rep Brown, Corrine [D-FL-5] (introduced 10/26/2015) *Will be reintroduced by Rep. Richmond, Cedric L. [D-LA-2]*
 - Provide dedicated federal funding
 - H.R.6020 Funding for Student Scholarships for the 1890s Land-Grant African-American Colleges and Universities Act Sponsor: Rep Scott, David [D-GA-13] (introduced 9/14/2016)
- Allow HBCUs to be eligible for competitive federal grant programs
 - H.R.4857 HBCU Innovation Fund Act Sponsor: Rep Adams, Alma S. [D-NC-12] (introduced 3/23/2016)
 - H.R.3872 Safe Streets and Representative Police Forces Act of 2015 Sponsor: Rep Kelly, Robin L. [D-IL-2] (introduced 11/2/2015)
- Improve ability of HBCUs to finance themselves
 - H.R.5530 HBCU Capital Financing Improvement Act Sponsor: Rep Adams, Alma S. [D-NC-12] (introduced 6/20/2016) **PASSED HOUSE**
 - H.R.6048 Latest Title: HBCU Investment Expansion Act Sponsor: Rep Ellison, Keith [D-MN-5] (introduced 9/15/2016)
- Create programs in Departments to work with HBCUs
 - H.R.53 Cyber Security Education and Federal Workforce Enhancement Act Sponsor: Rep Jackson Lee, Sheila [D-TX-18] (introduced 1/6/2015)
- Recognition of the importance of HBCUs
 - H.Res.357, Supporting the Goals and Ideals of National Historically Black Colleges and Universities Week Sponsor: Rep. Johnson, Eddie Bernice [D-TX-30] (introduced 9/25/2013)
- Increase resources for students at HBCUs
 - H.R.6164, the Inclusive Campuses Act Sponsor: Rep. Johnson, Henry C. "Hank" Jr. [D-GA-4] (introduced 9/26/2016)