

April 28, 2025

Dear Member of the Illinois Congressional Delegation:

As Congress drafts legislation addressing tax and mandatory spending priorities, we urge you to oppose provisions that would make higher education less affordable and accessible.

Illinois' public universities educate over 185,000 students a year and employ more than 48,000 people, generating a collective annual economic impact of approximately \$26 billion. Federal and state support is crucial to our efforts to advance workforce and economic development across the state. Unfortunately, some of the provisions that are reportedly being considered for inclusion in reconciliation legislation would undermine those efforts and harm students. In particular:

University of Illinois
President Timothy L. Killeen

Chicago State University
President Zaldwaynaka Scott

Eastern Illinois University
President Jay D. Gatrell

Governors State University
Interim President Corey Bradford

Illinois State University
President Aondover Tarhule

Northeastern Illinois University
President Katrina E. Bell-Jordan

Northern Illinois University
President Lisa C. Freeman

Southern Illinois University
President Daniel F. Mahony

Western Illinois University
President Kristi Mindrup

- **“Risk-sharing” penalties** for universities would disadvantage schools like ours that enroll many low- and moderate-income students. According to congressional estimates, those penalties would collectively cost our universities over \$26 million annually. Data from the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities indicate that Illinois institutions of higher education would collectively lose almost \$111 million per year should these penalties become law.
- **Eliminating Parent and Grad PLUS loans** would push more students and families into the private loan market, with higher interest rates and fewer borrower protections. In 2023-24, our students received over \$268 million in PLUS loans.
- Proposed **changes to the student aid need analysis formula** would reduce access to Pell Grants and other federal student aid programs. That formula should continue to be based on the actual cost of attendance at specific programs, and not the median cost of attendance of similar degree programs nationally.
- Rather than **reducing aggregate and annual limits for undergraduate and graduate loans**, Congress can reduce student debt by making greater investments in programs like Pell.
- **Eliminating Section 117(d) of the Internal Revenue Code** would impose new taxes on our employees who receive tuition reductions for themselves or their children, as well as graduate students who receive teaching or research assistantships.
- **Forcing students to pay the interest accrued on subsidized loans while they are enrolled** would increase borrowing costs and debt.

We ask you to oppose the provisions discussed above or other legislative efforts to impose new costs or taxes on our universities, students, employees or their families.

Thank you for your attention to our concerns.



University of Illinois
President Timothy L. Killeen



Chicago State University
President Zaldwaynaka Scott



Eastern Illinois University
President Jay D. Gatrell



Governors State University
Interim President Corey Bradford



Illinois State University
President Aondover Tarhule



Northeastern Illinois University
Katrina E. Bell-Jordan



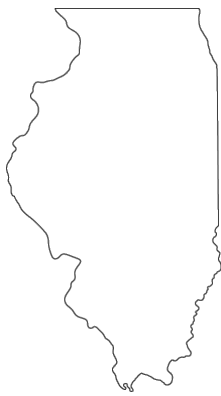
Northern Illinois University
President Lisa C. Freeman



Southern Illinois University
President Daniel F. Mahony



Western Illinois University
President Kristi Mindrup



April 28, 2025

The Honorable Tammy Duckworth
524 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator Duckworth,

As Congress drafts legislation addressing tax and mandatory spending priorities, we urge you to oppose provisions that would make higher education less affordable and accessible.

Illinois' public universities educate over 185,000 students a year and employ more than 48,000 people, generating a collective annual economic impact of approximately \$26 billion. Federal and state support is crucial to our efforts to advance workforce and economic development across the state. Unfortunately, some of the provisions that are reportedly being considered for inclusion in reconciliation legislation would undermine those efforts and harm students. In particular:

- **“Risk-sharing” penalties** for universities would disadvantage schools like ours that enroll many low- and moderate-income students. According to congressional estimates, those penalties would collectively cost our universities over \$26 million annually. Data from the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities indicate that Illinois institutions of higher education would collectively lose almost \$111 million per year should these penalties become law.
- **Eliminating Parent and Grad PLUS loans** would push more students and families into the private loan market, with higher interest rates and fewer borrower protections. In 2023-24, our students received over \$268 million in PLUS loans.
- Proposed **changes to the student aid need analysis formula** would reduce access to Pell Grants and other federal student aid programs. That formula should continue to be based on the actual cost of attendance at specific programs, and not the median cost of attendance of similar degree programs nationally.
- Rather than **reducing aggregate and annual limits for undergraduate and graduate loans**, Congress can reduce student debt by making greater investments in programs like Pell.
- **Eliminating Section 117(d) of the Internal Revenue Code** would impose new taxes on our employees who receive tuition reductions for themselves or their children, as well as graduate students who receive teaching or research assistantships.
- **Forcing students to pay the interest accrued on subsidized loans while they are enrolled** would increase borrowing costs and debt.

We ask you to oppose the provisions discussed above or other legislative efforts to impose new costs or taxes on our universities, students, employees or their families.

Thank you for your attention to our concerns.

University of Illinois
President Timothy L. Killeen

Chicago State University
President Zalwaynaka Scott

Eastern Illinois University
President Jay D. Gatrell

Governors State University
Interim President Corey Bradford

Illinois State University
President Aondover Tarhule

Northeastern Illinois University
President Katrina E. Bell-Jordan

Northern Illinois University
President Lisa C. Freeman

Southern Illinois University
President Daniel F. Mahony

Western Illinois University
President Kristi Mindrup



University of Illinois
President Timothy L. Killeen



Chicago State University
President Zaldwaynaka Scott



Eastern Illinois University
President Jay D. Gatrell



Governors State University
Interim President Corey Bradford



Illinois State University
President Aondover Tarhule



Northeastern Illinois University
Katrina E. Bell-Jordan



Northern Illinois University
President Lisa C. Freeman



Southern Illinois University
President Daniel F. Mahony



Western Illinois University
President Kristi Mindrup



April 28, 2025

The Honorable Jonathan Jackson
1632 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Jackson,

As Congress drafts legislation addressing tax and mandatory spending priorities, we urge you to oppose provisions that would make higher education less affordable and accessible.

Illinois' public universities educate over 185,000 students a year and employ more than 48,000 people, generating a collective annual economic impact of approximately \$26 billion. Federal and state support is crucial to our efforts to advance workforce and economic development across the state. Unfortunately, some of the provisions that are reportedly being considered for inclusion in reconciliation legislation would undermine those efforts and harm students. In particular:

- **“Risk-sharing” penalties** for universities would disadvantage schools like ours that enroll many low- and moderate-income students. According to congressional estimates, those penalties would collectively cost our universities over \$26 million annually. Data from the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities indicate that Illinois institutions of higher education would collectively lose almost \$111 million per year should these penalties become law.
- **Eliminating Parent and Grad PLUS loans** would push more students and families into the private loan market, with higher interest rates and fewer borrower protections. In 2023-24, our students received over \$268 million in PLUS loans.
- Proposed **changes to the student aid need analysis formula** would reduce access to Pell Grants and other federal student aid programs. That formula should continue to be based on the actual cost of attendance at specific programs, and not the median cost of attendance of similar degree programs nationally.
- Rather than **reducing aggregate and annual limits for undergraduate and graduate loans**, Congress can reduce student debt by making greater investments in programs like Pell.
- **Eliminating Section 117(d) of the Internal Revenue Code** would impose new taxes on our employees who receive tuition reductions for themselves or their children, as well as graduate students who receive teaching or research assistantships.
- **Forcing students to pay the interest accrued on subsidized loans while they are enrolled** would increase borrowing costs and debt.

We ask you to oppose the provisions discussed above or other legislative efforts to impose new costs or taxes on our universities, students, employees or their families.

Thank you for your attention to our concerns.

University of Illinois
President Timothy L. Killeen

Chicago State University
President Zaldwaynaka Scott

Eastern Illinois University
President Jay D. Gatrell

Governors State University
Interim President Corey Bradford

Illinois State University
President Aondover Tarhule

Northeastern Illinois University
President Katrina E. Bell-Jordan

Northern Illinois University
President Lisa C. Freeman

Southern Illinois University
President Daniel F. Mahony

Western Illinois University
President Kristi Mindrup



University of Illinois
President Timothy L. Killeen



Chicago State University
President Zaldwaynaka Scott



Eastern Illinois University
President Jay D. Gatrell



Governors State University
Interim President Corey Bradford



Illinois State University
President Aondover Tarhule



Northeastern Illinois University
Katrina E. Bell-Jordan



Northern Illinois University
President Lisa C. Freeman



Southern Illinois University
President Daniel F. Mahony



Western Illinois University
President Kristi Mindrup



April 28, 2025

The Honorable Robin Kelly
2329 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Kelly,

As Congress drafts legislation addressing tax and mandatory spending priorities, we urge you to oppose provisions that would make higher education less affordable and accessible.

Illinois' public universities educate over 185,000 students a year and employ more than 48,000 people, generating a collective annual economic impact of approximately \$26 billion. Federal and state support is crucial to our efforts to advance workforce and economic development across the state. Unfortunately, some of the provisions that are reportedly being considered for inclusion in reconciliation legislation would undermine those efforts and harm students. In particular:

- **“Risk-sharing” penalties** for universities would disadvantage schools like ours that enroll many low- and moderate-income students. According to congressional estimates, those penalties would collectively cost our universities over \$26 million annually. Data from the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities indicate that Illinois institutions of higher education would collectively lose almost \$111 million per year should these penalties become law.
- **Eliminating Parent and Grad PLUS loans** would push more students and families into the private loan market, with higher interest rates and fewer borrower protections. In 2023-24, our students received over \$268 million in PLUS loans.
- Proposed **changes to the student aid need analysis formula** would reduce access to Pell Grants and other federal student aid programs. That formula should continue to be based on the actual cost of attendance at specific programs, and not the median cost of attendance of similar degree programs nationally.
- Rather than **reducing aggregate and annual limits for undergraduate and graduate loans**, Congress can reduce student debt by making greater investments in programs like Pell.
- **Eliminating Section 117(d) of the Internal Revenue Code** would impose new taxes on our employees who receive tuition reductions for themselves or their children, as well as graduate students who receive teaching or research assistantships.
- **Forcing students to pay the interest accrued on subsidized loans while they are enrolled** would increase borrowing costs and debt.

We ask you to oppose the provisions discussed above or other legislative efforts to impose new costs or taxes on our universities, students, employees or their families.

Thank you for your attention to our concerns.

University of Illinois
President Timothy L. Killeen

Chicago State University
President Zaldwaynaka Scott

Eastern Illinois University
President Jay D. Gatrell

Governors State University
Interim President Corey Bradford

Illinois State University
President Aondover Tarhule

Northeastern Illinois University
President Katrina E. Bell-Jordan

Northern Illinois University
President Lisa C. Freeman

Southern Illinois University
President Daniel F. Mahony

Western Illinois University
President Kristi Mindrup



University of Illinois
President Timothy L. Killeen



Chicago State University
President Zaldwaynaka Scott



Eastern Illinois University
President Jay D. Gatrell



Governors State University
Interim President Corey Bradford



Illinois State University
President Aondover Tarhule



Northeastern Illinois University
Katrina E. Bell-Jordan



Northern Illinois University
President Lisa C. Freeman



Southern Illinois University
President Daniel F. Mahony



Western Illinois University
President Kristi Mindrup



April 28, 2025

The Honorable Delia Ramirez
1523 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Ramirez,

As Congress drafts legislation addressing tax and mandatory spending priorities, we urge you to oppose provisions that would make higher education less affordable and accessible.

Illinois' public universities educate over 185,000 students a year and employ more than 48,000 people, generating a collective annual economic impact of approximately \$26 billion. Federal and state support is crucial to our efforts to advance workforce and economic development across the state. Unfortunately, some of the provisions that are reportedly being considered for inclusion in reconciliation legislation would undermine those efforts and harm students. In particular:

- **“Risk-sharing” penalties** for universities would disadvantage schools like ours that enroll many low- and moderate-income students. According to congressional estimates, those penalties would collectively cost our universities over \$26 million annually. Data from the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities indicate that Illinois institutions of higher education would collectively lose almost \$111 million per year should these penalties become law.
- **Eliminating Parent and Grad PLUS loans** would push more students and families into the private loan market, with higher interest rates and fewer borrower protections. In 2023-24, our students received over \$268 million in PLUS loans.
- Proposed **changes to the student aid need analysis formula** would reduce access to Pell Grants and other federal student aid programs. That formula should continue to be based on the actual cost of attendance at specific programs, and not the median cost of attendance of similar degree programs nationally.
- Rather than **reducing aggregate and annual limits for undergraduate and graduate loans**, Congress can reduce student debt by making greater investments in programs like Pell.
- **Eliminating Section 117(d) of the Internal Revenue Code** would impose new taxes on our employees who receive tuition reductions for themselves or their children, as well as graduate students who receive teaching or research assistantships.
- **Forcing students to pay the interest accrued on subsidized loans while they are enrolled** would increase borrowing costs and debt.

We ask you to oppose the provisions discussed above or other legislative efforts to impose new costs or taxes on our universities, students, employees or their families.

Thank you for your attention to our concerns.

University of Illinois
President Timothy L. Killeen

Chicago State University
President Zaldwaynaka Scott

Eastern Illinois University
President Jay D. Gatrell

Governors State University
Interim President Corey Bradford

Illinois State University
President Aondover Tarhule

Northeastern Illinois University
President Katrina E. Bell-Jordan

Northern Illinois University
President Lisa C. Freeman

Southern Illinois University
President Daniel F. Mahony

Western Illinois University
President Kristi Mindrup



University of Illinois
President Timothy L. Killeen



Chicago State University
President Zaldwaynaka Scott



Eastern Illinois University
President Jay D. Gatrell



Governors State University
Interim President Corey Bradford



Illinois State University
President Aondover Tarhule



Northeastern Illinois University
Katrina E. Bell-Jordan



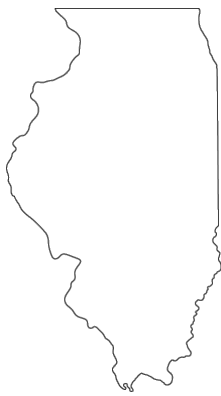
Northern Illinois University
President Lisa C. Freeman



Southern Illinois University
President Daniel F. Mahony



Western Illinois University
President Kristi Mindrup



April 28, 2025

The Honorable Chuy Garcia
2334 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Garcia,

As Congress drafts legislation addressing tax and mandatory spending priorities, we urge you to oppose provisions that would make higher education less affordable and accessible.

Illinois' public universities educate over 185,000 students a year and employ more than 48,000 people, generating a collective annual economic impact of approximately \$26 billion. Federal and state support is crucial to our efforts to advance workforce and economic development across the state. Unfortunately, some of the provisions that are reportedly being considered for inclusion in reconciliation legislation would undermine those efforts and harm students. In particular:

- **“Risk-sharing” penalties** for universities would disadvantage schools like ours that enroll many low- and moderate-income students. According to congressional estimates, those penalties would collectively cost our universities over \$26 million annually. Data from the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities indicate that Illinois institutions of higher education would collectively lose almost \$111 million per year should these penalties become law.
- **Eliminating Parent and Grad PLUS loans** would push more students and families into the private loan market, with higher interest rates and fewer borrower protections. In 2023-24, our students received over \$268 million in PLUS loans.
- Proposed **changes to the student aid need analysis formula** would reduce access to Pell Grants and other federal student aid programs. That formula should continue to be based on the actual cost of attendance at specific programs, and not the median cost of attendance of similar degree programs nationally.
- Rather than **reducing aggregate and annual limits for undergraduate and graduate loans**, Congress can reduce student debt by making greater investments in programs like Pell.
- **Eliminating Section 117(d) of the Internal Revenue Code** would impose new taxes on our employees who receive tuition reductions for themselves or their children, as well as graduate students who receive teaching or research assistantships.
- **Forcing students to pay the interest accrued on subsidized loans while they are enrolled** would increase borrowing costs and debt.

We ask you to oppose the provisions discussed above or other legislative efforts to impose new costs or taxes on our universities, students, employees or their families.

Thank you for your attention to our concerns.

University of Illinois
President Timothy L. Killeen

Chicago State University
President Zaldwaynaka Scott

Eastern Illinois University
President Jay D. Gatrell

Governors State University
Interim President Corey Bradford

Illinois State University
President Aondover Tarhule

Northeastern Illinois University
President Katrina E. Bell-Jordan

Northern Illinois University
President Lisa C. Freeman

Southern Illinois University
President Daniel F. Mahony

Western Illinois University
President Kristi Mindrup



University of Illinois
President Timothy L. Killeen



Chicago State University
President Zaldwaynaka Scott



Eastern Illinois University
President Jay D. Gatrell



Governors State University
Interim President Corey Bradford



Illinois State University
President Aondover Tarhule



Northeastern Illinois University
Katrina E. Bell-Jordan



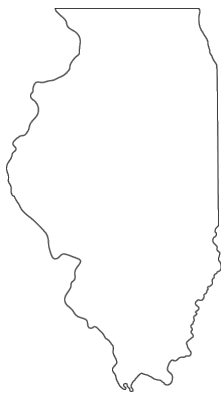
Northern Illinois University
President Lisa C. Freeman



Southern Illinois University
President Daniel F. Mahony



Western Illinois University
President Kristi Mindrup



April 28, 2025

The Honorable Mike Quigley
2083 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Quigley,

As Congress drafts legislation addressing tax and mandatory spending priorities, we urge you to oppose provisions that would make higher education less affordable and accessible.

Illinois' public universities educate over 185,000 students a year and employ more than 48,000 people, generating a collective annual economic impact of approximately \$26 billion. Federal and state support is crucial to our efforts to advance workforce and economic development across the state. Unfortunately, some of the provisions that are reportedly being considered for inclusion in reconciliation legislation would undermine those efforts and harm students. In particular:

- **“Risk-sharing” penalties** for universities would disadvantage schools like ours that enroll many low- and moderate-income students. According to congressional estimates, those penalties would collectively cost our universities over \$26 million annually. Data from the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities indicate that Illinois institutions of higher education would collectively lose almost \$111 million per year should these penalties become law.
- **Eliminating Parent and Grad PLUS loans** would push more students and families into the private loan market, with higher interest rates and fewer borrower protections. In 2023-24, our students received over \$268 million in PLUS loans.
- Proposed **changes to the student aid need analysis formula** would reduce access to Pell Grants and other federal student aid programs. That formula should continue to be based on the actual cost of attendance at specific programs, and not the median cost of attendance of similar degree programs nationally.
- Rather than **reducing aggregate and annual limits for undergraduate and graduate loans**, Congress can reduce student debt by making greater investments in programs like Pell.
- **Eliminating Section 117(d) of the Internal Revenue Code** would impose new taxes on our employees who receive tuition reductions for themselves or their children, as well as graduate students who receive teaching or research assistantships.
- **Forcing students to pay the interest accrued on subsidized loans while they are enrolled** would increase borrowing costs and debt.

We ask you to oppose the provisions discussed above or other legislative efforts to impose new costs or taxes on our universities, students, employees or their families.

Thank you for your attention to our concerns.

University of Illinois
President Timothy L. Killeen

Chicago State University
President Zaldwaynaka Scott

Eastern Illinois University
President Jay D. Gatrell

Governors State University
Interim President Corey Bradford

Illinois State University
President Aondover Tarhule

Northeastern Illinois University
President Katrina E. Bell-Jordan

Northern Illinois University
President Lisa C. Freeman

Southern Illinois University
President Daniel F. Mahony

Western Illinois University
President Kristi Mindrup



University of Illinois
President Timothy L. Killeen



Chicago State University
President Zaldwaynaka Scott



Eastern Illinois University
President Jay D. Gatrell



Governors State University
Interim President Corey Bradford



Illinois State University
President Aondover Tarhule



Northeastern Illinois University
Katrina E. Bell-Jordan



Northern Illinois University
President Lisa C. Freeman



Southern Illinois University
President Daniel F. Mahony



Western Illinois University
President Kristi Mindrup



April 28, 2025

The Honorable Sean Casten
2440 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Casten,

As Congress drafts legislation addressing tax and mandatory spending priorities, we urge you to oppose provisions that would make higher education less affordable and accessible.

Illinois' public universities educate over 185,000 students a year and employ more than 48,000 people, generating a collective annual economic impact of approximately \$26 billion. Federal and state support is crucial to our efforts to advance workforce and economic development across the state. Unfortunately, some of the provisions that are reportedly being considered for inclusion in reconciliation legislation would undermine those efforts and harm students. In particular:

- **“Risk-sharing” penalties** for universities would disadvantage schools like ours that enroll many low- and moderate-income students. According to congressional estimates, those penalties would collectively cost our universities over \$26 million annually. Data from the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities indicate that Illinois institutions of higher education would collectively lose almost \$111 million per year should these penalties become law.
- **Eliminating Parent and Grad PLUS loans** would push more students and families into the private loan market, with higher interest rates and fewer borrower protections. In 2023-24, our students received over \$268 million in PLUS loans.
- Proposed **changes to the student aid need analysis formula** would reduce access to Pell Grants and other federal student aid programs. That formula should continue to be based on the actual cost of attendance at specific programs, and not the median cost of attendance of similar degree programs nationally.
- Rather than **reducing aggregate and annual limits for undergraduate and graduate loans**, Congress can reduce student debt by making greater investments in programs like Pell.
- **Eliminating Section 117(d) of the Internal Revenue Code** would impose new taxes on our employees who receive tuition reductions for themselves or their children, as well as graduate students who receive teaching or research assistantships.
- **Forcing students to pay the interest accrued on subsidized loans while they are enrolled** would increase borrowing costs and debt.

We ask you to oppose the provisions discussed above or other legislative efforts to impose new costs or taxes on our universities, students, employees or their families.

Thank you for your attention to our concerns.

University of Illinois
President Timothy L. Killeen

Chicago State University
President Zaldwaynaka Scott

Eastern Illinois University
President Jay D. Gatrell

Governors State University
Interim President Corey Bradford

Illinois State University
President Aondover Tarhule

Northeastern Illinois University
President Katrina E. Bell-Jordan

Northern Illinois University
President Lisa C. Freeman

Southern Illinois University
President Daniel F. Mahony

Western Illinois University
President Kristi Mindrup



University of Illinois
President Timothy L. Killeen



Chicago State University
President Zaldwaynaka Scott



Eastern Illinois University
President Jay D. Gatrell



Governors State University
Interim President Corey Bradford



Illinois State University
President Aondover Tarhule



Northeastern Illinois University
Katrina E. Bell-Jordan



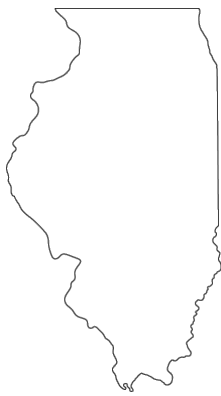
Northern Illinois University
President Lisa C. Freeman



Southern Illinois University
President Daniel F. Mahony



Western Illinois University
President Kristi Mindrup



April 28, 2025

The Honorable Danny Davis
2159 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Davis,

As Congress drafts legislation addressing tax and mandatory spending priorities, we urge you to oppose provisions that would make higher education less affordable and accessible.

Illinois' public universities educate over 185,000 students a year and employ more than 48,000 people, generating a collective annual economic impact of approximately \$26 billion. Federal and state support is crucial to our efforts to advance workforce and economic development across the state. Unfortunately, some of the provisions that are reportedly being considered for inclusion in reconciliation legislation would undermine those efforts and harm students. In particular:

- **“Risk-sharing” penalties** for universities would disadvantage schools like ours that enroll many low- and moderate-income students. According to congressional estimates, those penalties would collectively cost our universities over \$26 million annually. Data from the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities indicate that Illinois institutions of higher education would collectively lose almost \$111 million per year should these penalties become law.
- **Eliminating Parent and Grad PLUS loans** would push more students and families into the private loan market, with higher interest rates and fewer borrower protections. In 2023-24, our students received over \$268 million in PLUS loans.
- Proposed **changes to the student aid need analysis formula** would reduce access to Pell Grants and other federal student aid programs. That formula should continue to be based on the actual cost of attendance at specific programs, and not the median cost of attendance of similar degree programs nationally.
- Rather than **reducing aggregate and annual limits for undergraduate and graduate loans**, Congress can reduce student debt by making greater investments in programs like Pell.
- **Eliminating Section 117(d) of the Internal Revenue Code** would impose new taxes on our employees who receive tuition reductions for themselves or their children, as well as graduate students who receive teaching or research assistantships.
- **Forcing students to pay the interest accrued on subsidized loans while they are enrolled** would increase borrowing costs and debt.

We ask you to oppose the provisions discussed above or other legislative efforts to impose new costs or taxes on our universities, students, employees or their families.

Thank you for your attention to our concerns.

University of Illinois
President Timothy L. Killeen

Chicago State University
President Zalwaynaka Scott

Eastern Illinois University
President Jay D. Gatrell

Governors State University
Interim President Corey Bradford

Illinois State University
President Aondover Tarhule

Northeastern Illinois University
President Katrina E. Bell-Jordan

Northern Illinois University
President Lisa C. Freeman

Southern Illinois University
President Daniel F. Mahony

Western Illinois University
President Kristi Mindrup



University of Illinois
President Timothy L. Killeen



Chicago State University
President Zaldwaynaka Scott



Eastern Illinois University
President Jay D. Gatrell



Governors State University
Interim President Corey Bradford



Illinois State University
President Aondover Tarhule



Northeastern Illinois University
Katrina E. Bell-Jordan



Northern Illinois University
President Lisa C. Freeman



Southern Illinois University
President Daniel F. Mahony



Western Illinois University
President Kristi Mindrup



April 28, 2025

The Honorable Raja Krishnamoorthi
2367 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Krishnamoorthi,

As Congress drafts legislation addressing tax and mandatory spending priorities, we urge you to oppose provisions that would make higher education less affordable and accessible.

Illinois' public universities educate over 185,000 students a year and employ more than 48,000 people, generating a collective annual economic impact of approximately \$26 billion. Federal and state support is crucial to our efforts to advance workforce and economic development across the state. Unfortunately, some of the provisions that are reportedly being considered for inclusion in reconciliation legislation would undermine those efforts and harm students. In particular:

- **“Risk-sharing” penalties** for universities would disadvantage schools like ours that enroll many low- and moderate-income students. According to congressional estimates, those penalties would collectively cost our universities over \$26 million annually. Data from the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities indicate that Illinois institutions of higher education would collectively lose almost \$111 million per year should these penalties become law.
- **Eliminating Parent and Grad PLUS loans** would push more students and families into the private loan market, with higher interest rates and fewer borrower protections. In 2023-24, our students received over \$268 million in PLUS loans.
- Proposed **changes to the student aid need analysis formula** would reduce access to Pell Grants and other federal student aid programs. That formula should continue to be based on the actual cost of attendance at specific programs, and not the median cost of attendance of similar degree programs nationally.
- Rather than **reducing aggregate and annual limits for undergraduate and graduate loans**, Congress can reduce student debt by making greater investments in programs like Pell.
- **Eliminating Section 117(d) of the Internal Revenue Code** would impose new taxes on our employees who receive tuition reductions for themselves or their children, as well as graduate students who receive teaching or research assistantships.
- **Forcing students to pay the interest accrued on subsidized loans while they are enrolled** would increase borrowing costs and debt.

We ask you to oppose the provisions discussed above or other legislative efforts to impose new costs or taxes on our universities, students, employees or their families.

Thank you for your attention to our concerns.

University of Illinois
President Timothy L. Killeen

Chicago State University
President Zaldwaynaka Scott

Eastern Illinois University
President Jay D. Gatrell

Governors State University
Interim President Corey Bradford

Illinois State University
President Aondover Tarhule

Northeastern Illinois University
President Katrina E. Bell-Jordan

Northern Illinois University
President Lisa C. Freeman

Southern Illinois University
President Daniel F. Mahony

Western Illinois University
President Kristi Mindrup



University of Illinois
President Timothy L. Killeen



Chicago State University
President Zaldwaynaka Scott



Eastern Illinois University
President Jay D. Gatrell



Governors State University
Interim President Corey Bradford



Illinois State University
President Aondover Tarhule



Northeastern Illinois University
Katrina E. Bell-Jordan



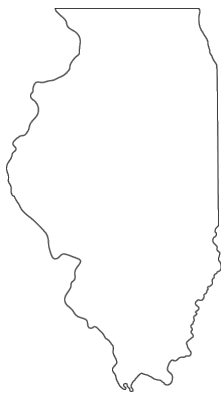
Northern Illinois University
President Lisa C. Freeman



Southern Illinois University
President Daniel F. Mahony



Western Illinois University
President Kristi Mindrup



April 28, 2025

The Honorable Jan Schakowsky
2408 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Schakowsky,

As Congress drafts legislation addressing tax and mandatory spending priorities, we urge you to oppose provisions that would make higher education less affordable and accessible.

Illinois' public universities educate over 185,000 students a year and employ more than 48,000 people, generating a collective annual economic impact of approximately \$26 billion. Federal and state support is crucial to our efforts to advance workforce and economic development across the state. Unfortunately, some of the provisions that are reportedly being considered for inclusion in reconciliation legislation would undermine those efforts and harm students. In particular:

- **“Risk-sharing” penalties** for universities would disadvantage schools like ours that enroll many low- and moderate-income students. According to congressional estimates, those penalties would collectively cost our universities over \$26 million annually. Data from the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities indicate that Illinois institutions of higher education would collectively lose almost \$111 million per year should these penalties become law.
- **Eliminating Parent and Grad PLUS loans** would push more students and families into the private loan market, with higher interest rates and fewer borrower protections. In 2023-24, our students received over \$268 million in PLUS loans.
- Proposed **changes to the student aid need analysis formula** would reduce access to Pell Grants and other federal student aid programs. That formula should continue to be based on the actual cost of attendance at specific programs, and not the median cost of attendance of similar degree programs nationally.
- Rather than **reducing aggregate and annual limits for undergraduate and graduate loans**, Congress can reduce student debt by making greater investments in programs like Pell.
- **Eliminating Section 117(d) of the Internal Revenue Code** would impose new taxes on our employees who receive tuition reductions for themselves or their children, as well as graduate students who receive teaching or research assistantships.
- **Forcing students to pay the interest accrued on subsidized loans while they are enrolled** would increase borrowing costs and debt.

We ask you to oppose the provisions discussed above or other legislative efforts to impose new costs or taxes on our universities, students, employees or their families.

Thank you for your attention to our concerns.

University of Illinois
President Timothy L. Killeen

Chicago State University
President Zaldwaynaka Scott

Eastern Illinois University
President Jay D. Gatrell

Governors State University
Interim President Corey Bradford

Illinois State University
President Aondover Tarhule

Northeastern Illinois University
President Katrina E. Bell-Jordan

Northern Illinois University
President Lisa C. Freeman

Southern Illinois University
President Daniel F. Mahony

Western Illinois University
President Kristi Mindrup



University of Illinois
President Timothy L. Killeen



Chicago State University
President Zaldwaynaka Scott



Eastern Illinois University
President Jay D. Gatrell



Governors State University
Interim President Corey Bradford



Illinois State University
President Aondover Tarhule



Northeastern Illinois University
Katrina E. Bell-Jordan



Northern Illinois University
President Lisa C. Freeman



Southern Illinois University
President Daniel F. Mahony



Western Illinois University
President Kristi Mindrup



April 28, 2025

The Honorable Brad Schneider
300 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Schneider,

As Congress drafts legislation addressing tax and mandatory spending priorities, we urge you to oppose provisions that would make higher education less affordable and accessible.

Illinois' public universities educate over 185,000 students a year and employ more than 48,000 people, generating a collective annual economic impact of approximately \$26 billion. Federal and state support is crucial to our efforts to advance workforce and economic development across the state. Unfortunately, some of the provisions that are reportedly being considered for inclusion in reconciliation legislation would undermine those efforts and harm students. In particular:

- **“Risk-sharing” penalties** for universities would disadvantage schools like ours that enroll many low- and moderate-income students. According to congressional estimates, those penalties would collectively cost our universities over \$26 million annually. Data from the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities indicate that Illinois institutions of higher education would collectively lose almost \$111 million per year should these penalties become law.
- **Eliminating Parent and Grad PLUS loans** would push more students and families into the private loan market, with higher interest rates and fewer borrower protections. In 2023-24, our students received over \$268 million in PLUS loans.
- Proposed **changes to the student aid need analysis formula** would reduce access to Pell Grants and other federal student aid programs. That formula should continue to be based on the actual cost of attendance at specific programs, and not the median cost of attendance of similar degree programs nationally.
- Rather than **reducing aggregate and annual limits for undergraduate and graduate loans**, Congress can reduce student debt by making greater investments in programs like Pell.
- **Eliminating Section 117(d) of the Internal Revenue Code** would impose new taxes on our employees who receive tuition reductions for themselves or their children, as well as graduate students who receive teaching or research assistantships.
- **Forcing students to pay the interest accrued on subsidized loans while they are enrolled** would increase borrowing costs and debt.

We ask you to oppose the provisions discussed above or other legislative efforts to impose new costs or taxes on our universities, students, employees or their families.

Thank you for your attention to our concerns.

University of Illinois
President Timothy L. Killeen

Chicago State University
President Zaldwaynaka Scott

Eastern Illinois University
President Jay D. Gatrell

Governors State University
Interim President Corey Bradford

Illinois State University
President Aondover Tarhule

Northeastern Illinois University
President Katrina E. Bell-Jordan

Northern Illinois University
President Lisa C. Freeman

Southern Illinois University
President Daniel F. Mahony

Western Illinois University
President Kristi Mindrup



University of Illinois
President Timothy L. Killeen



Chicago State University
President Zaldwaynaka Scott



Eastern Illinois University
President Jay D. Gatrell



Governors State University
Interim President Corey Bradford



Illinois State University
President Aondover Tarhule



Northeastern Illinois University
Katrina E. Bell-Jordan



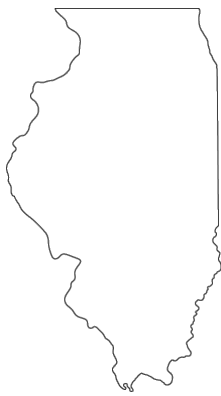
Northern Illinois University
President Lisa C. Freeman



Southern Illinois University
President Daniel F. Mahony



Western Illinois University
President Kristi Mindrup



April 28, 2025

The Honorable Bill Foster
2366 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Foster,

As Congress drafts legislation addressing tax and mandatory spending priorities, we urge you to oppose provisions that would make higher education less affordable and accessible.

Illinois' public universities educate over 185,000 students a year and employ more than 48,000 people, generating a collective annual economic impact of approximately \$26 billion. Federal and state support is crucial to our efforts to advance workforce and economic development across the state. Unfortunately, some of the provisions that are reportedly being considered for inclusion in reconciliation legislation would undermine those efforts and harm students. In particular:

- **“Risk-sharing” penalties** for universities would disadvantage schools like ours that enroll many low- and moderate-income students. According to congressional estimates, those penalties would collectively cost our universities over \$26 million annually. Data from the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities indicate that Illinois institutions of higher education would collectively lose almost \$111 million per year should these penalties become law.
- **Eliminating Parent and Grad PLUS loans** would push more students and families into the private loan market, with higher interest rates and fewer borrower protections. In 2023-24, our students received over \$268 million in PLUS loans.
- Proposed **changes to the student aid need analysis formula** would reduce access to Pell Grants and other federal student aid programs. That formula should continue to be based on the actual cost of attendance at specific programs, and not the median cost of attendance of similar degree programs nationally.
- Rather than **reducing aggregate and annual limits for undergraduate and graduate loans**, Congress can reduce student debt by making greater investments in programs like Pell.
- **Eliminating Section 117(d) of the Internal Revenue Code** would impose new taxes on our employees who receive tuition reductions for themselves or their children, as well as graduate students who receive teaching or research assistantships.
- **Forcing students to pay the interest accrued on subsidized loans while they are enrolled** would increase borrowing costs and debt.

We ask you to oppose the provisions discussed above or other legislative efforts to impose new costs or taxes on our universities, students, employees or their families.

Thank you for your attention to our concerns.

University of Illinois
President Timothy L. Killeen

Chicago State University
President Zaldwaynaka Scott

Eastern Illinois University
President Jay D. Gatrell

Governors State University
Interim President Corey Bradford

Illinois State University
President Aondover Tarhule

Northeastern Illinois University
President Katrina E. Bell-Jordan

Northern Illinois University
President Lisa C. Freeman

Southern Illinois University
President Daniel F. Mahony

Western Illinois University
President Kristi Mindrup



University of Illinois
President Timothy L. Killeen



Chicago State University
President Zaldwaynaka Scott



Eastern Illinois University
President Jay D. Gatrell



Governors State University
Interim President Corey Bradford



Illinois State University
President Aondover Tarhule



Northeastern Illinois University
Katrina E. Bell-Jordan



Northern Illinois University
President Lisa C. Freeman



Southern Illinois University
President Daniel F. Mahony



Western Illinois University
President Kristi Mindrup



April 28, 2025

The Honorable Mike Bost
352 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Bost,

As Congress drafts legislation addressing tax and mandatory spending priorities, we urge you to oppose provisions that would make higher education less affordable and accessible.

Illinois' public universities educate over 185,000 students a year and employ more than 48,000 people, generating a collective annual economic impact of approximately \$26 billion. Federal and state support is crucial to our efforts to advance workforce and economic development across the state. Unfortunately, some of the provisions that are reportedly being considered for inclusion in reconciliation legislation would undermine those efforts and harm students. In particular:

- **“Risk-sharing” penalties** for universities would disadvantage schools like ours that enroll many low- and moderate-income students. According to congressional estimates, those penalties would collectively cost our universities over \$26 million annually. Data from the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities indicate that Illinois institutions of higher education would collectively lose almost \$111 million per year should these penalties become law.
- **Eliminating Parent and Grad PLUS loans** would push more students and families into the private loan market, with higher interest rates and fewer borrower protections. In 2023-24, our students received over \$268 million in PLUS loans.
- Proposed **changes to the student aid need analysis formula** would reduce access to Pell Grants and other federal student aid programs. That formula should continue to be based on the actual cost of attendance at specific programs, and not the median cost of attendance of similar degree programs nationally.
- Rather than **reducing aggregate and annual limits for undergraduate and graduate loans**, Congress can reduce student debt by making greater investments in programs like Pell.
- **Eliminating Section 117(d) of the Internal Revenue Code** would impose new taxes on our employees who receive tuition reductions for themselves or their children, as well as graduate students who receive teaching or research assistantships.
- **Forcing students to pay the interest accrued on subsidized loans while they are enrolled** would increase borrowing costs and debt.

We ask you to oppose the provisions discussed above or other legislative efforts to impose new costs or taxes on our universities, students, employees or their families.

Thank you for your attention to our concerns.

University of Illinois
President Timothy L. Killeen

Chicago State University
President Zaldwaynaka Scott

Eastern Illinois University
President Jay D. Gatrell

Governors State University
Interim President Corey Bradford

Illinois State University
President Aondover Tarhule

Northeastern Illinois University
President Katrina E. Bell-Jordan

Northern Illinois University
President Lisa C. Freeman

Southern Illinois University
President Daniel F. Mahony

Western Illinois University
President Kristi Mindrup



University of Illinois
President Timothy L. Killeen



Chicago State University
President Zaldwaynaka Scott



Eastern Illinois University
President Jay D. Gatrell



Governors State University
Interim President Corey Bradford



Illinois State University
President Aondover Tarhule



Northeastern Illinois University
Katrina E. Bell-Jordan



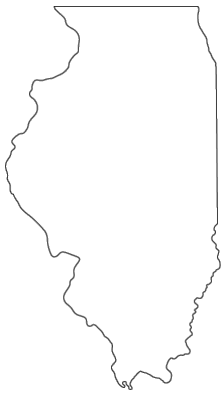
Northern Illinois University
President Lisa C. Freeman



Southern Illinois University
President Daniel F. Mahony



Western Illinois University
President Kristi Mindrup



April 28, 2025

The Honorable Nikki Budzinski
1717 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Budzinski,

As Congress drafts legislation addressing tax and mandatory spending priorities, we urge you to oppose provisions that would make higher education less affordable and accessible.

Illinois' public universities educate over 185,000 students a year and employ more than 48,000 people, generating a collective annual economic impact of approximately \$26 billion. Federal and state support is crucial to our efforts to advance workforce and economic development across the state. Unfortunately, some of the provisions that are reportedly being considered for inclusion in reconciliation legislation would undermine those efforts and harm students. In particular:

- **“Risk-sharing” penalties** for universities would disadvantage schools like ours that enroll many low- and moderate-income students. According to congressional estimates, those penalties would collectively cost our universities over \$26 million annually. Data from the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities indicate that Illinois institutions of higher education would collectively lose almost \$111 million per year should these penalties become law.
- **Eliminating Parent and Grad PLUS loans** would push more students and families into the private loan market, with higher interest rates and fewer borrower protections. In 2023-24, our students received over \$268 million in PLUS loans.
- Proposed **changes to the student aid need analysis formula** would reduce access to Pell Grants and other federal student aid programs. That formula should continue to be based on the actual cost of attendance at specific programs, and not the median cost of attendance of similar degree programs nationally.
- Rather than **reducing aggregate and annual limits for undergraduate and graduate loans**, Congress can reduce student debt by making greater investments in programs like Pell.
- **Eliminating Section 117(d) of the Internal Revenue Code** would impose new taxes on our employees who receive tuition reductions for themselves or their children, as well as graduate students who receive teaching or research assistantships.
- **Forcing students to pay the interest accrued on subsidized loans while they are enrolled** would increase borrowing costs and debt.

We ask you to oppose the provisions discussed above or other legislative efforts to impose new costs or taxes on our universities, students, employees or their families.

Thank you for your attention to our concerns.

University of Illinois
President Timothy L. Killeen

Chicago State University
President Zalwaynaka Scott

Eastern Illinois University
President Jay D. Gatrell

Governors State University
Interim President Corey Bradford

Illinois State University
President Aondover Tarhule

Northeastern Illinois University
President Katrina E. Bell-Jordan

Northern Illinois University
President Lisa C. Freeman

Southern Illinois University
President Daniel F. Mahony

Western Illinois University
President Kristi Mindrup



University of Illinois
President Timothy L. Killeen



Chicago State University
President Zaldwaynaka Scott



Eastern Illinois University
President Jay D. Gatrell



Governors State University
Interim President Corey Bradford



Illinois State University
President Aondover Tarhule



Northeastern Illinois University
Katrina E. Bell-Jordan



Northern Illinois University
President Lisa C. Freeman



Southern Illinois University
President Daniel F. Mahony



Western Illinois University
President Kristi Mindrup



April 28, 2025

The Honorable Lauren Underwood
2228 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Underwood,

As Congress drafts legislation addressing tax and mandatory spending priorities, we urge you to oppose provisions that would make higher education less affordable and accessible.

Illinois' public universities educate over 185,000 students a year and employ more than 48,000 people, generating a collective annual economic impact of approximately \$26 billion. Federal and state support is crucial to our efforts to advance workforce and economic development across the state. Unfortunately, some of the provisions that are reportedly being considered for inclusion in reconciliation legislation would undermine those efforts and harm students. In particular:

- **“Risk-sharing” penalties** for universities would disadvantage schools like ours that enroll many low- and moderate-income students. According to congressional estimates, those penalties would collectively cost our universities over \$26 million annually. Data from the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities indicate that Illinois institutions of higher education would collectively lose almost \$111 million per year should these penalties become law.
- **Eliminating Parent and Grad PLUS loans** would push more students and families into the private loan market, with higher interest rates and fewer borrower protections. In 2023-24, our students received over \$268 million in PLUS loans.
- Proposed **changes to the student aid need analysis formula** would reduce access to Pell Grants and other federal student aid programs. That formula should continue to be based on the actual cost of attendance at specific programs, and not the median cost of attendance of similar degree programs nationally.
- Rather than **reducing aggregate and annual limits for undergraduate and graduate loans**, Congress can reduce student debt by making greater investments in programs like Pell.
- **Eliminating Section 117(d) of the Internal Revenue Code** would impose new taxes on our employees who receive tuition reductions for themselves or their children, as well as graduate students who receive teaching or research assistantships.
- **Forcing students to pay the interest accrued on subsidized loans while they are enrolled** would increase borrowing costs and debt.

We ask you to oppose the provisions discussed above or other legislative efforts to impose new costs or taxes on our universities, students, employees or their families.

Thank you for your attention to our concerns.

University of Illinois
President Timothy L. Killeen

Chicago State University
President Zaldwaynaka Scott

Eastern Illinois University
President Jay D. Gatrell

Governors State University
Interim President Corey Bradford

Illinois State University
President Aondover Tarhule

Northeastern Illinois University
President Katrina E. Bell-Jordan

Northern Illinois University
President Lisa C. Freeman

Southern Illinois University
President Daniel F. Mahony

Western Illinois University
President Kristi Mindrup



University of Illinois
President Timothy L. Killeen



Chicago State University
President Zaldwaynaka Scott



Eastern Illinois University
President Jay D. Gatrell



Governors State University
Interim President Corey Bradford



Illinois State University
President Aondover Tarhule



Northeastern Illinois University
Katrina E. Bell-Jordan



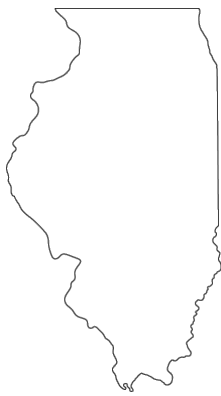
Northern Illinois University
President Lisa C. Freeman



Southern Illinois University
President Daniel F. Mahony



Western Illinois University
President Kristi Mindrup



April 28, 2025

The Honorable Mary Miller
1740 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Miller,

As Congress drafts legislation addressing tax and mandatory spending priorities, we urge you to oppose provisions that would make higher education less affordable and accessible.

Illinois' public universities educate over 185,000 students a year and employ more than 48,000 people, generating a collective annual economic impact of approximately \$26 billion. Federal and state support is crucial to our efforts to advance workforce and economic development across the state. Unfortunately, some of the provisions that are reportedly being considered for inclusion in reconciliation legislation would undermine those efforts and harm students. In particular:

- **“Risk-sharing” penalties** for universities would disadvantage schools like ours that enroll many low- and moderate-income students. According to congressional estimates, those penalties would collectively cost our universities over \$26 million annually. Data from the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities indicate that Illinois institutions of higher education would collectively lose almost \$111 million per year should these penalties become law.
- **Eliminating Parent and Grad PLUS loans** would push more students and families into the private loan market, with higher interest rates and fewer borrower protections. In 2023-24, our students received over \$268 million in PLUS loans.
- Proposed **changes to the student aid need analysis formula** would reduce access to Pell Grants and other federal student aid programs. That formula should continue to be based on the actual cost of attendance at specific programs, and not the median cost of attendance of similar degree programs nationally.
- Rather than **reducing aggregate and annual limits for undergraduate and graduate loans**, Congress can reduce student debt by making greater investments in programs like Pell.
- **Eliminating Section 117(d) of the Internal Revenue Code** would impose new taxes on our employees who receive tuition reductions for themselves or their children, as well as graduate students who receive teaching or research assistantships.
- **Forcing students to pay the interest accrued on subsidized loans while they are enrolled** would increase borrowing costs and debt.

We ask you to oppose the provisions discussed above or other legislative efforts to impose new costs or taxes on our universities, students, employees or their families.

Thank you for your attention to our concerns.

University of Illinois
President Timothy L. Killeen

Chicago State University
President Zaldwaynaka Scott

Eastern Illinois University
President Jay D. Gatrell

Governors State University
Interim President Corey Bradford

Illinois State University
President Aondover Tarhule

Northeastern Illinois University
President Katrina E. Bell-Jordan

Northern Illinois University
President Lisa C. Freeman

Southern Illinois University
President Daniel F. Mahony

Western Illinois University
President Kristi Mindrup



University of Illinois
President Timothy L. Killeen



Chicago State University
President Zaldwaynaka Scott



Eastern Illinois University
President Jay D. Gatrell



Governors State University
Interim President Corey Bradford



Illinois State University
President Aondover Tarhule



Northeastern Illinois University
Katrina E. Bell-Jordan



Northern Illinois University
President Lisa C. Freeman



Southern Illinois University
President Daniel F. Mahony



Western Illinois University
President Kristi Mindrup



April 28, 2025

The Honorable Darin LaHood
503 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative LaHood,

As Congress drafts legislation addressing tax and mandatory spending priorities, we urge you to oppose provisions that would make higher education less affordable and accessible.

Illinois' public universities educate over 185,000 students a year and employ more than 48,000 people, generating a collective annual economic impact of approximately \$26 billion. Federal and state support is crucial to our efforts to advance workforce and economic development across the state. Unfortunately, some of the provisions that are reportedly being considered for inclusion in reconciliation legislation would undermine those efforts and harm students. In particular:

- **“Risk-sharing” penalties** for universities would disadvantage schools like ours that enroll many low- and moderate-income students. According to congressional estimates, those penalties would collectively cost our universities over \$26 million annually. Data from the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities indicate that Illinois institutions of higher education would collectively lose almost \$111 million per year should these penalties become law.
- **Eliminating Parent and Grad PLUS loans** would push more students and families into the private loan market, with higher interest rates and fewer borrower protections. In 2023-24, our students received over \$268 million in PLUS loans.
- Proposed **changes to the student aid need analysis formula** would reduce access to Pell Grants and other federal student aid programs. That formula should continue to be based on the actual cost of attendance at specific programs, and not the median cost of attendance of similar degree programs nationally.
- Rather than **reducing aggregate and annual limits for undergraduate and graduate loans**, Congress can reduce student debt by making greater investments in programs like Pell.
- **Eliminating Section 117(d) of the Internal Revenue Code** would impose new taxes on our employees who receive tuition reductions for themselves or their children, as well as graduate students who receive teaching or research assistantships.
- **Forcing students to pay the interest accrued on subsidized loans while they are enrolled** would increase borrowing costs and debt.

We ask you to oppose the provisions discussed above or other legislative efforts to impose new costs or taxes on our universities, students, employees or their families.

Thank you for your attention to our concerns.

University of Illinois
President Timothy L. Killeen

Chicago State University
President Zaldwaynaka Scott

Eastern Illinois University
President Jay D. Gatrell

Governors State University
Interim President Corey Bradford

Illinois State University
President Aondover Tarhule

Northeastern Illinois University
President Katrina E. Bell-Jordan

Northern Illinois University
President Lisa C. Freeman

Southern Illinois University
President Daniel F. Mahony

Western Illinois University
President Kristi Mindrup



University of Illinois
President Timothy L. Killeen



Chicago State University
President Zaldwaynaka Scott



Eastern Illinois University
President Jay D. Gatrell



Governors State University
Interim President Corey Bradford



Illinois State University
President Aondover Tarhule



Northeastern Illinois University
Katrina E. Bell-Jordan



Northern Illinois University
President Lisa C. Freeman



Southern Illinois University
President Daniel F. Mahony



Western Illinois University
President Kristi Mindrup



April 28, 2025

The Honorable Eric Sorensen
1314 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Sorensen,

As Congress drafts legislation addressing tax and mandatory spending priorities, we urge you to oppose provisions that would make higher education less affordable and accessible.

Illinois' public universities educate over 185,000 students a year and employ more than 48,000 people, generating a collective annual economic impact of approximately \$26 billion. Federal and state support is crucial to our efforts to advance workforce and economic development across the state. Unfortunately, some of the provisions that are reportedly being considered for inclusion in reconciliation legislation would undermine those efforts and harm students. In particular:

- **“Risk-sharing” penalties** for universities would disadvantage schools like ours that enroll many low- and moderate-income students. According to congressional estimates, those penalties would collectively cost our universities over \$26 million annually. Data from the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities indicate that Illinois institutions of higher education would collectively lose almost \$111 million per year should these penalties become law.
- **Eliminating Parent and Grad PLUS loans** would push more students and families into the private loan market, with higher interest rates and fewer borrower protections. In 2023-24, our students received over \$268 million in PLUS loans.
- Proposed **changes to the student aid need analysis formula** would reduce access to Pell Grants and other federal student aid programs. That formula should continue to be based on the actual cost of attendance at specific programs, and not the median cost of attendance of similar degree programs nationally.
- Rather than **reducing aggregate and annual limits for undergraduate and graduate loans**, Congress can reduce student debt by making greater investments in programs like Pell.
- **Eliminating Section 117(d) of the Internal Revenue Code** would impose new taxes on our employees who receive tuition reductions for themselves or their children, as well as graduate students who receive teaching or research assistantships.
- **Forcing students to pay the interest accrued on subsidized loans while they are enrolled** would increase borrowing costs and debt.

We ask you to oppose the provisions discussed above or other legislative efforts to impose new costs or taxes on our universities, students, employees or their families.

Thank you for your attention to our concerns.

University of Illinois
President Timothy L. Killeen

Chicago State University
President Zaldwaynaka Scott

Eastern Illinois University
President Jay D. Gatrell

Governors State University
Interim President Corey Bradford

Illinois State University
President Aondover Tarhule

Northeastern Illinois University
President Katrina E. Bell-Jordan

Northern Illinois University
President Lisa C. Freeman

Southern Illinois University
President Daniel F. Mahony

Western Illinois University
President Kristi Mindrup



University of Illinois
President Timothy L. Killeen



Chicago State University
President Zaldwaynaka Scott



Eastern Illinois University
President Jay D. Gatrell



Governors State University
Interim President Corey Bradford



Illinois State University
President Aondover Tarhule



Northeastern Illinois University
Katrina E. Bell-Jordan



Northern Illinois University
President Lisa C. Freeman



Southern Illinois University
President Daniel F. Mahony



Western Illinois University
President Kristi Mindrup