

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

November 3, 2025

The Honorable Linda McMahon
Secretary of Education
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue SW
Washington, DC 20202

Dear Secretary McMahon,

As members of the California Congressional Delegation, we write to express our strong opposition to the Department of Education's (EDs) decision to rescind federal resources from Minority-Serving Institutions (MSIs) – including Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSIs), Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander Serving Institutions (AANAPISIs), Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian Serving Institutions (ANNHSIs), Native American Serving Non-Tribal Institutions (NASNTIs), and Predominantly Black Institutions (PBIs).

California is home to the largest concentration of MSIs in the country. Our state has 85 eligible AANAPISIs, serving large numbers of Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander students, as well as more than 170 HSIs, educating nearly two million students of all backgrounds. For example, twenty-one of twenty-two California State University campuses are federally designated HSIs, and five University of California campuses have reached HSI status. California's community colleges – our primary access point to higher education – are overwhelmingly HSIs, with over 90 percent already meeting the federal threshold. Collectively, MSIs enroll the majority of first-generation and low-income students in California and consistently demonstrate higher rates of economic mobility than non-MSI institutions. The Department's decision to reprogram funding from the MSI program undermines the ability of these universities to serve communities that have long been underrepresented in higher education.

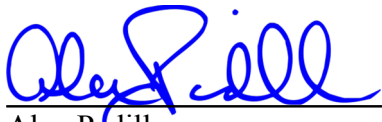
We are disappointed in and disagree with the Department of Justice's July 25th determination that HSIs apply "racial quotas" in a manner that is "unconstitutional." No court has found the MSI program unconstitutional, nor has a court instructed the Department of Education to reprogram this funding. We note that on October 10, 2025, the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Tennessee granted Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU) and LatinoJustice PRLDEF the right to intervene in *Students for Fair Admissions (SFFA) v. U.S. Department of Education*, ensuring that affected institutions have a voice in defending these programs. To be clear, diverting resources away from these schools will disproportionately harm California students and students across the nation who depend on MSIs as the most accessible and affordable pathway to a degree. It would also weaken proven engines of upward mobility, deprive our workforce of diverse talent, and undercut the nation's long-term competitiveness.

Rather than reallocate scarce dollars from MSIs to HBCUs and TCCUs, we urge you to allocate funding as intended by Congress to support all MSIs, HBCUs, and TCCUs. We are encouraged that affected institutions can now participate in the judicial process to ensure these programs are fully and fairly defended. In light of these developments, we would welcome the opportunity to work with the administration to increase investments in MSIs, HBCUs, and TCCUs. Equitable, sustained funding across the spectrum of MSIs, HBCUs, and TCCUs will ensure that more institutions can continue broadening opportunity, reducing inequities, and powering the American economy. Our collective goal must be to invest in all students, no matter which institution they attend.

Sincerely,



Jim Costa
Member of Congress



Alex Padilla
United States Senator



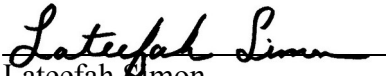
Adam B. Schiff
United States Senator



Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress
Chair, California Democratic
Congressional Delegation



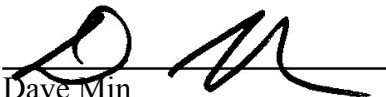
Derek T. Tran
Member of Congress



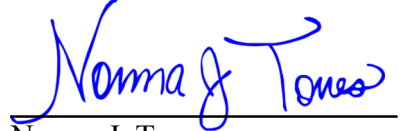
Lateefah Simon
Member of Congress



Doris Matsui
Member of Congress



Dave Min
Member of Congress



Norma J. Torres
Member of Congress



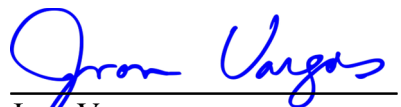
Mark Takano
Member of Congress



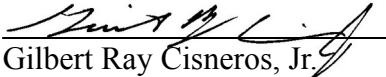
Raul Ruiz, M.D.
Member of Congress



J. Luis Correa
Member of Congress

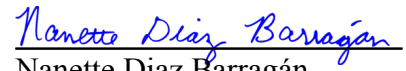


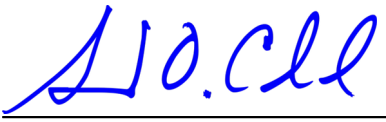
Juan Vargas
Member of Congress

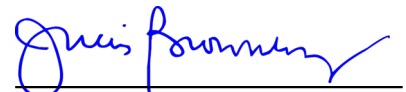

Gilbert Ray Cisneros, Jr.
Member of Congress


Mike Thompson
Member of Congress

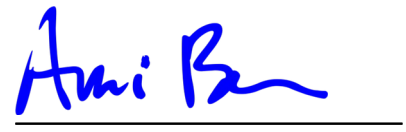

Jimmy Panetta
Member of Congress

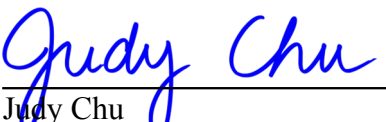

Nanette Diaz Barragán
Member of Congress

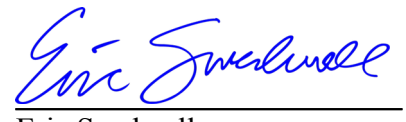

Salud Carbajal
Member of Congress


Julia Brownley
Member of Congress

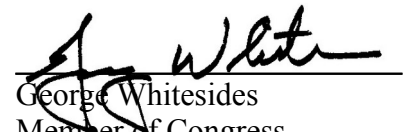

John Garamendi
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Ami Bera
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Luz M. Rivas
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George Whitesides
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Kevin Mullin
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Josh Harder
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Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress



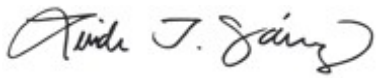
Mike Levin
Member of Congress



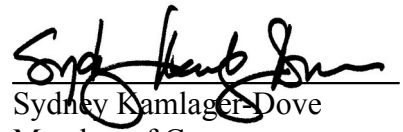
Jared Huffman
Member of Congress



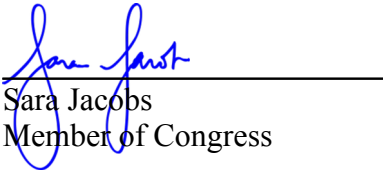
Laura Friedman
Member of Congress



Linda T. Sánchez
Member of Congress



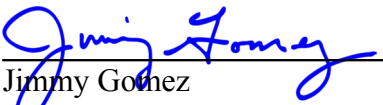
Sydney Kamlager-Dove
Member of Congress



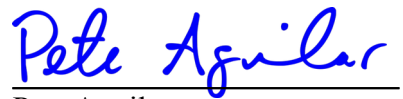
Sara Jacobs
Member of Congress



Ted Lieu
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Jimmy Gomez
Member of Congress



Pete Aguilar
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Ro Khanna
Member of Congress



Scott H. Peters
Member of Congress