

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

March 24, 2016

The Honorable Harold Rogers  
Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nita Lowey  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Cole  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS & Education  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS & Education  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Rogers and Cole and Ranking Members Lowey and DeLauro:

As you consider the Fiscal Year 2017 Labor, Health and Human Services and Education appropriations bill, we urge you to increase federal support to Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs). While the slight increases to HSIs in the 2016 omnibus package are encouraging, we are concerned that current HSI funding levels are not adequate to promote accessibility and affordability in higher education to the growing number of Latino students who wish to pursue a postsecondary education and graduate study.

In recent years, funding levels for federal programs authorized under Title V and Title III, Part F of the Higher Education Act of 1965 have decreased due to sequestration and other federal policies. For example, the Developing Hispanic Serving Institutions program (Title V, Part A) was funded at \$117 million in FY 2010, and \$100 million in FY 2015. Similarly, the Promoting Postbaccalaureate Opportunities for Hispanic Americans program (Title V, Part B) was appropriated \$10.5 million in FY 2010 and just \$8.9 million in FY 2015.

At a time when the Latino college age population is experiencing exponential growth and attaining a college degree is more important than ever, HSIs are educating approximately half of the more than three million Latino undergraduate and graduate students enrolled in degree granting postsecondary institutions today. Yet, HSIs continue to be under-resourced and require federal support to strengthen their capacity to offer Latino and low-income students pursuing college and graduate study a high quality education. **For these reasons, we respectfully request that you provide \$150 million for Title V, Part A (Developing Hispanic Serving Institutions program); \$30 million for Title V, Part B (Promoting Postbaccalaureate Opportunities for Hispanic Americans); and \$100 million for Title III, Part F, Sec. 371 (STEM and Articulation program) in Fiscal Year 2017.**

Finally, we strongly believe that this budget request is justified. It would restore more adequate funding levels for HSI programs, begin to account for the rapid growth in the Latino college age population, and help to prepare greater numbers of Latino undergraduate and graduate students for family sustaining jobs, careers and leadership roles in an increasingly competitive global economy.

Thank you for considering this appropriations request. We appreciate your support of Hispanic-Serving Institutions. If you have any questions, please contact Rosa García (Rep. Hinojosa) at [rosa.garcia@mail.house.gov](mailto:rosa.garcia@mail.house.gov).

Sincerely,



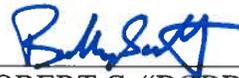
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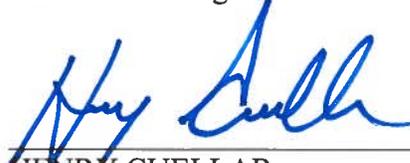
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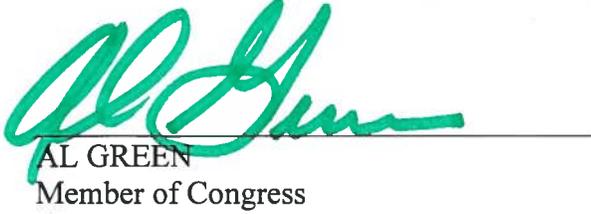
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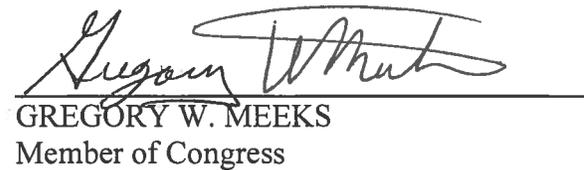
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MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM  
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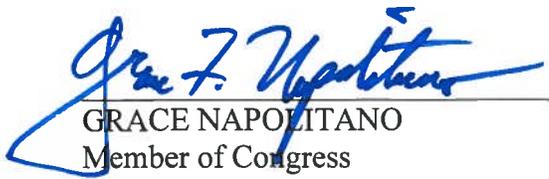
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