

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

September 21, 2016

The Honorable John Kline
Chairman, Committee on Education
and the Workforce
2176 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Robert C. Scott
Ranking Member, Committee on
Education and the Workforce
2101 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Kline and Ranking Member Scott,

As Co-Chairs of the New Democrat Coalition 21st Century Education, Immigration, and Workforce Task Force, we write to outline the Coalition priorities for higher education policy. Last week, we released our Higher Education Priorities, which detail policies we believe will make higher education more accessible, innovative, and effective.

We believe that we must find ways to make college more affordable and reduce loan debt, while also ensuring students are able to earn a degree that equips them with the skills they need to make competitive wages and pay off their loans. We also need innovative solutions that make post-secondary education more attainable, more affordable, and more attuned to the needs of today's students, who balance multiple responsibilities and are older and more diverse than previous generations. For the U.S. to maintain its competitive edge internationally, we must double down on investments in STEM fields at all levels of the education system, expand opportunities for those who face barriers to full participation in higher education, and ensure educators have the tools they need to prepare students to succeed.

To achieve these goals, we outline three overarching priorities in our document:

- Making Higher Education More Accessible and Affordable
- Fully Preparing Students for Higher Education and the Workforce
- Making Higher Education More Effective, Accountable, & Inclusive

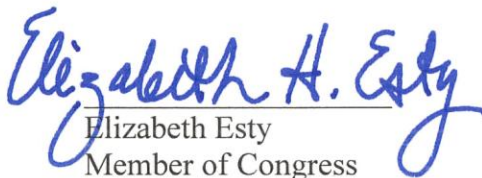
Our colleges and universities are the envy of the world, and when we fully commit to building and supporting higher education institutions that work for all Americans, we can ensure they stay that way.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We have enclosed a copy of the priorities we released today. Should you have any questions or comments, do not hesitate to contact us.

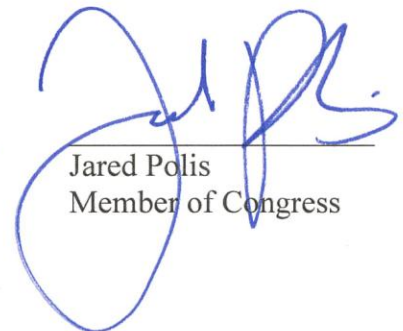
Sincerely,



Joaquin Castro
Member of Congress



Elizabeth Esty
Member of Congress



Jared Polis
Member of Congress

CC: The Honorable Virginia Foxx, the Honorable Rubén Hinojosa