

HUSTON-TILLOTSON
UNIVERSITY

U.S. HOUSE LETTER

[DATE]

The Honorable Tim Walberg
Chairman
Committee on Education and the Workforce
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Robert C. "Bobby" Scott
Ranking Member
Committee on Education and the Workforce
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Chairman Walberg and Ranking Member Scott,

I write to ask for your leadership in advancing H.R. 8791, the IGNITE HBCU Excellence Act — co-led by Representatives French Hill (R-AR) and Alma S. Adams (D-NC) — through the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

Historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs) have always been agents of equity, access, and excellence in education, especially for students of color. While representing only roughly 3% of all four-year colleges and universities, HBCUs produce upwards of 17% of all bachelor's degrees awarded to African Americans. Yet this success has been achieved in spite of more than a century of underfunding at both the state and federal levels. Too often, HBCUs must navigate the effects of chronic underfunding while lacking the same access to alternate sources of capital available to other institutions.

Add your comments here or leave as is. Huston-Tillotson University is a faith-based historically black college and university (HBCU) nestled in the vibrant heart of downtown Austin, Texas. The institution provides a robust liberal arts and STEM education through market-driven certifications, associate, baccalaureate, master’s degrees, and centers of excellence. HT remains committed to its legacy of educating a mosaic community of learners while cultivating innovative leaders who are dedicated to academic excellence and service.

H.R. 8791 represents a transformational bipartisan proposal to rebuild and revitalize HBCU campuses and digital infrastructure. The bill would authorize a novel grant program that allows HBCUs to renovate, repair, modernize, or construct campus facilities; leverage private partnerships and federal research funding; preserve buildings of historic significance; procure research equipment; install high-speed broadband; and more. We strongly believe that HBCUs are vital to creating the 21st-century workforce our nation needs to compete globally.

As the leaders of the Committee of jurisdiction, you are uniquely positioned to move this legislation forward. We respectfully urge you to advance H.R. 8791 through regular order — including a hearing and markup — and to work toward its swift enactment. The nation's HBCUs, and the students and communities they serve, are counting on your stewardship.

For questions or to coordinate, please contact Jonas Brock in Representative Hill's office at Jonas.Brock@mail.house.gov or Ruben Cedillo in Representative Adams' office at Ruben.Cedillo@mail.house.gov.

We appreciate your consideration and your commitment to the students HBCUs serve.

I appreciate your consideration and your support of HBCUs.

Sincerely,

Your Name
Title or Connection
State, District _____

cc: Your Representative _____

HUSTON-TILLOTSON UNIVERSITY

U.S. SENATE LETTER

[DATE]

The Honorable Bill Cassidy, M.D.
Chairman Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Bernie Sanders
Ranking Member Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Chairman Cassidy and Ranking Member Sanders,

I write to ask for your leadership in advancing S. 4528 the IGNITE HBCU Excellence Act co-sponsored by Senators Tim Scott (R-SC) and Chris Coons (D-DE) through the Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions.

Historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs) have always been agents of equity, access, and excellence in education, especially for students of color. While representing only roughly 3% of all four-year colleges and universities, HBCUs produce upwards of 17% of all bachelor's degrees awarded to African Americans. Yet this success has been achieved in spite of more than a century of underfunding at both the state and federal levels. Too often, HBCUs must navigate the effects of chronic underfunding while lacking the same access to alternate sources of capital available to other institutions.

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The IGNITE HBCU Excellence Act represents a transformational bipartisan proposal to rebuild and revitalize HBCU campuses and digital infrastructure. It would authorize a novel grant program that allows HBCUs to renovate, repair, modernize, or construct campus facilities; leverage private partnerships and federal research funding; preserve buildings of historic significance; procure research equipment; install high-speed broadband; and more. HBCUs are vital to creating the 21st-century workforce our nation needs to compete globally.

As the leaders of the Committee of jurisdiction, you are uniquely positioned to move this legislation forward. I respectfully urge you to introduce and advance a Senate companion through regular order — including a hearing and markup — and to work toward its swift enactment. The nation's HBCUs, and the students and communities they serve, are counting on your stewardship.

If you have any questions about this legislation or would like to cosponsor the IGNITE HBCU Excellence Act, please contact Leighton Klevana in Sen. Tim Scott’s office at leighton_klevana@scott.senate.gov or Katie Pannell in Sen. Chris Coons’ office at katie_pannell@coons.senate.gov.

We appreciate your consideration and your commitment to the students HBCUs serve.

I appreciate your consideration and your support of HBCUs.

Sincerely,

Your Name
Title or Connection
State, District _____

cc: Your Senator _____