



April 28, 2025

The Honorable Tim Walberg  
Chairman  
Committee on Education and Workforce  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Bobby Scott  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Education and Workforce  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Walberg and Ranking Member Scott,

As president of the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU), I write to convey the association's strong opposition to the Education and Workforce Committee's component of the reconciliation legislation which it will markup tomorrow.

APLU is a membership organization that consists of more than 230 public research universities and state university systems across all 50 states. The association and its members collectively focus on increasing student success and workforce readiness; promoting pathbreaking scientific research; and bolstering economic and community engagement. Annually, its U.S. member campuses enroll 4.3 million undergraduates and 1.3 million graduate students, award 1.3 million degrees, employ 1.2 million faculty and staff, and conduct \$64 billion in university-based research.

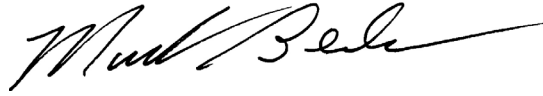
APLU is deeply alarmed that despite frequent communication with the Committee on the perils of the approach taken in the College Cost Reduction Act, particularly on the myriad ways the legislation runs counter to how public institutions are funded and overseen by their states, the fundamental approach has not changed. The risk-sharing and PROMISE grant components of the legislation are a staggering level of federal overreach usurping the role of states over state entities, utilizing the U.S. Department of Education to penalize institutions based on an exceedingly complex formula locked in statute, punishing state colleges and universities for decisions beyond their control as it relates to tuition setting and state funding, and ultimately using the Department of Education to redistribute funding between state institutions, nonprofit, and for-profit entities. This concern, among others, ultimately led to insufficient support within the House GOP conference to bring the legislation to the floor last year. Yet, the Committee would now insert such provisions into a much broader bill to bypass the opposition in both parties.

Further, with less than 24 hours to review the legislation prior to the committee markup, the bill would make incredibly consequential policy choices and student aid cuts to undergraduate and graduate student loans and Pell. The gravity of these changes would have far reaching impact to current and future students and merits a much more thorough vetting and careful consideration in a process inclusive of stakeholders.

There is a better way. As the legislative process moves forward, APLU urges policymakers to consider different, straightforward and fair, and effective approaches to accountability that also

better account for the unique dynamics of state institutions. We also implore policymakers to work with stakeholders as it considers student aid policy changes of enormous impact to students and institutions. APLU is eager to be a partner in the development of such approaches.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Becker", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Mark Becker  
President  
APLU

CC: Members of the House Education and Workforce Committee