

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 13, 2023

The Honorable Tammy Baldwin
Chairwoman
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on
Labor, Health and Human Services,
Education, and Related Agencies
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
Ranking Member
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on
Labor, Health and Human Services,
Education, and Related Agencies
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairwoman Baldwin and Ranking Member Capito:

As you develop the Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies appropriations bill, we request that you include at least \$20 million and report language to establish a pilot program at the Department of Education to promote and support collaboration between Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs) and local educational agencies with high enrollments of Hispanic or Latino students.

Latinos are the largest, youngest, and second-fastest growing minority population in the United States, accounting for half of the nation's population growth between 2010 and 2020. Latinos comprise 19 percent of the U.S. population, and comprise 28 percent of the public-school student enrollment in the United States.

Latino students frequently face barriers to high school and college completion that contribute to disparities in educational outcomes, including test scores and degree attainment. These students tend to face greater barriers once in college than their non-Latino peers. 54 percent of Latino college students are first-generation college students and 55 percent of Latino college students are Pell eligible. Therefore, we request that you include \$20 million and the following report language:

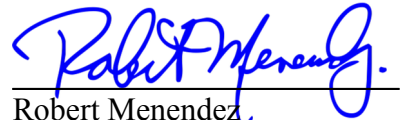
The Committee recommendation includes \$20,000,000 for the Department of Education to establish a pilot program to promote and support collaboration between Hispanic-serving institutions and local educational agencies with high enrollments of Hispanic or Latino students for the purpose of improving educational attainment and lowering disparities in educational outcomes among students from historically underserved communities. The Department shall submit a report within 180 days of the enactment of this Act and annually thereafter on methods, programs, and policies that have shown success in: 1) creating a college-bound culture among Hispanic and Latino students; 2) preparing Hispanic and Latino students to apply for postsecondary education; and 3) preparing Hispanic and Latino students to succeed in postsecondary education.

As our students and educational institutions continue to recover from the learning impacts of the pandemic, it is more important than ever to invest in our nation's youth. This pilot program will help improve educational attainment and reduce disparities in educational outcomes among students from historically underserved communities. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

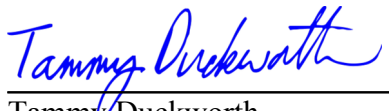
Sincerely,



Alex Padilla
United States Senator



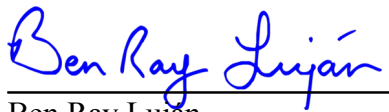
Robert Menendez
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator



Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator



Ben Ray Lujan
United States Senator



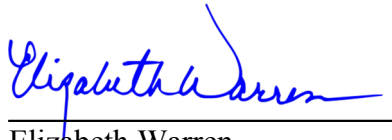
Sherrod Brown
United States Senator



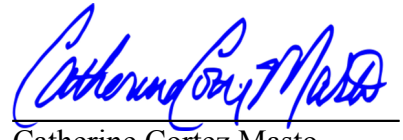
Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Kyrsten Sinema
United States Senator



Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator



Catherine Cortez Masto
United States Senator