

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 15, 2018

The Honorable Robert Aderholt
Chairman
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural
Development, Food and Drug
Administration and Related Agencies
House Appropriations Committee
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Sanford Bishop
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural
Development, Food and Drug
Administration and Related Agencies
House Appropriations Committee
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Culberson
Chairman
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice
Science and Related Agencies
House Appropriations Committee
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable José Serrano
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice
Science and Related Agencies
House Appropriations Committee
Washington, DC 20515

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

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

Dear Chairman Aderholt, Culberson and Cole and Ranking Member Bishop, Serrano, and DeLauro:

As you consider appropriations for Fiscal Year (FY) 2019, we respectfully request that the House Appropriations Committee consider the following requests for several programs that support the 472 Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs) across the nation.

Hispanic students continue to be at a disadvantage as only 15.5 percent of the Hispanic population holds a bachelor's degree and a mere 4.7 percent holds an advanced degree. As our labor markets continue to evolve, it is imperative that we prepare Hispanic students to enter the labor forces that increasingly demands higher levels of education.

HSIs play a crucial role in addressing the education gap, enrolling 62.3 percent of Hispanic college students and 23.4 percent of all college students in non-profit postsecondary institutions. According to the U.S. Department of Labor, projections indicate that 74 percent of all the new workers joining the American labor force in the current decade will be Hispanic. Despite serving such a vital role in educating our next generation of leaders, HSIs continue to be underfunded, receiving only 69 cents for every dollar going to all colleges and universities annually, per student, across all federal funding sources. We respectfully request that you include \$117 million for the Title V, Part A- HSI Program and \$20 million for the Title V, Part B – HSI Program, which will support Hispanic students in undergraduate and graduate programs, respectively.

In an effort to address a portion of the funding shortage for HSIs, the 2008 Farm Bill included a new federal designation, Hispanic-Serving Agricultural Colleges and Universities (HSACUs) for HSIs offering degree programs in agriculture and related areas. The legislation authorized new programs for HSACUs to strengthen their capacity to serve Hispanic students and other low-income students pursuing degrees in agriculture and related fields. There are 116 HSACUs across the United States that are driving innovative solutions for the nation's agricultural challenges. We respectfully request that you include \$20 million for the HSACU Education Grants, \$20 HSACU Equity Grants and \$10 million for the HSACU Institutional Capacity- Building Grant Program.

Additionally, the American COMPETES Act, created an HSI program at the National Science Foundation (NSF). The HSI program is designed to increase the recruitment, retention and graduation rates of Hispanic students pursuing degrees in science, mathematics, engineering or technology and to increase the quality of STEM education. We respectfully request that you appropriate \$30 million for the HSI Program at the NSF.

Given the state of our nation's economy and with rising enrollments at community colleges and Minority-Serving Institutions, federal investments in these programs are vital to build a competitive labor force to meet the challenges of tomorrow. Thank you for your consideration of these requests.

Sincerely,



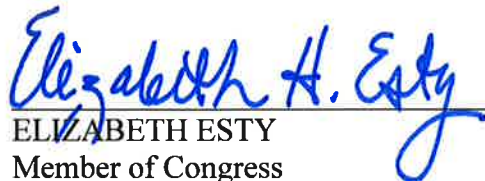
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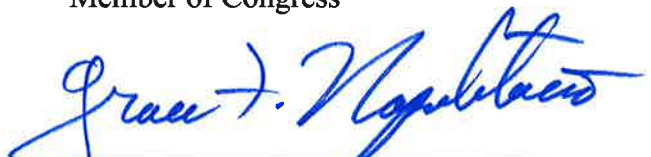
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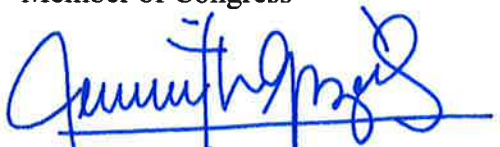

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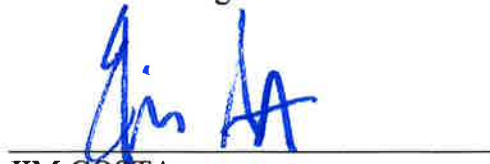

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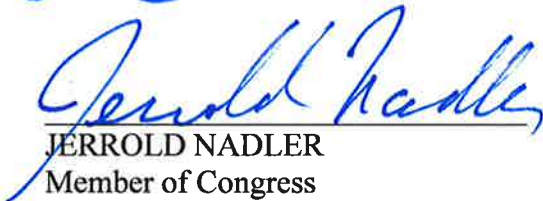
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