



The Honorable Tim Kaine
U.S. Senate
231 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Rob Portman
U.S. Senate
448 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tina Smith
U.S. Senate
720 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

May 29, 2020

Dear Senators Kaine, Portman, and Smith:

On behalf of 12 undersigned members of the Today's Students Coalition—a diverse group of policy, advocacy and membership organizations who have joined forces to push for urgently needed policy changes that will better serve today's students—we applaud your continued work on supporting the success of students through the ACCESS to Careers Act, which we are pleased to endorse.

Today's students are more diverse—in age, race, and income level—than any previous generation of college students, and they seek a system of higher learning where postsecondary providers deliver skills and knowledge that lead to employment or further education. We believe the ACCESS to Careers Act will better support the success of today's students by connecting their learning to work.

The ACCESS to Careers Act will boost student success and career readiness by increasing work-based learning opportunities, ensuring students have access to support services such as career navigators and counselors, and creating career pathways to meet the changing skill demands of the U.S. economy. This bill builds on lessons learned in the Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training grant program (TAACCCT), a program that increased the ability of community colleges to address the challenges of today's labor market.

By providing grants to community colleges, a cornerstone of postsecondary learning in our nation's communities, and building on the lessons of prior programs, this legislation will connect work and learning, support today's students needs both inside and outside of the classroom, and foster innovation in the field. This assistance is critically needed to advance the educational and workforce success of today's students.

We appreciate your continued commitment and efforts to update policies to better serve today's students. As the legislative process continues, the Today's Students Coalition looks forward to helping advance this vital legislation.

Sincerely,

The Today's Students Coalition

Higher Learning Advocates

Jobs for the Future (JFF)

NASPA - Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education

National Skills Coalition

Student Veterans of America

UPCEA

Veterans Education Success

Young Invincibles

Association of Big Ten Students

Center for First-generation Student Success

Cornell Student Assembly

Institute for Higher Education Policy (IHEP)