

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Betsy DeVos
Secretary of Education
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20202

Dear Secretary DeVos,

We write to express our support for the U.S. Department of Education's recent decision to allow institutions of higher education (IHE) the ability to grant emergency assistance provided by the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act to eligible students under Section 484 of Title IV of the Higher Education Act (HEA). The millions of United States citizens currently enrolled in IHE's across the country should be prioritized during the current crisis.

We agree with your guidance, which explains the importance that the limited funding from the CARES Act should be used for students who meet the following criteria: "U.S. citizenship or eligible noncitizen; a valid Social Security number; registration with Selective Service (if the student is male); and a high school diploma, GED, or completion of high school in an approved homeschool setting." We strongly encourage IHEs to utilize your guidance when determining eligibility for emergency assistance.

Millions of United States citizens currently studying in IHEs are primed to make extraordinary contributions to our communities and our economy for years to come. These students are the next generation of health care workers, first responders, and teachers. During this unique crisis, we must not lose sight of our promising future for the sake of spending our limited funding on illegal immigrants while American citizens are neglected.

While some on the left clamor for housing and tuition payments for illegal immigrants, we thank you for your strong resolve to advance the needs of US citizens. Now more than ever, we should be putting Americans first as we combat the Coronavirus pandemic.

Thank you for your dedicated leadership on this important issue and for your strong devotion to our nation's students.

Sincerely,

Doug Lamborn
Member of Congress

Jim Banks
Member of Congress