June xx, 2021

*Letter to Democratic Offices*

Dear Rep. <<Member Last Name>>,

We write today to request that you cosponsor H.R.3294, the *IGNITE HBCU Excellence Act*.

Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) have always been agents of equity, access, and excellence in education, especially for students of color. While only representing roughly 3 percent of all four-year colleges and universities, HBCUs produce upwards of 17 percent of all bachelor’s degrees awarded to African Americans. However, the incredible success of these institutions has been achieved in spite of over a century of systemic underfunding at both the state and federal levels. Too often, HBCUs are forced to navigate the effects of chronic underfunding while also lacking the same access to alternate sources of capital available to other institutions. In his American Jobs Plan and American Families Plan, President Biden has proposed to invest billions of dollars in HBCUs to make these campuses whole. We strongly agree that this level of investment is needed to rectify historic inequities and ensure that HBCUs can continue their mission to educate first generation, low-income college students.

H.R. 3294 represents a transformational bipartisan proposal to rebuild and revitalize HBCU campus and digital infrastructure. The bill would authorize a novel grant program that allows HBCUs to: renovate, repair, modernize, or construct new campus facilities; leverage private partnerships and federal research funding; preserve buildings with historic significance; procure research equipment; install high-speed broadband; and so much more. We strongly believe that HBCUs are vital to creating the diverse 21st Century workforce that our nation and our industry needs to compete globally. Therefore, we respectfully request that you lend your support to this legislation and work expeditiously for its enactment.

If you have any questions about this legislation or would like to cosponsor the *IGNITE HBCU Excellence Act*, please contact Gordon Holzberg in Rep. Alma Adams’s office at Gordon.Holzberg@mail.house.gov or Amelia Allert in Rep. French Hill’s office at Amelia.Allert@mail.house.gov .

We appreciate your consideration of our request and your support of HBCUs.

Sincerely,

June xx, 2021

*Letter to Republican Offices*

Dear Rep. <<Member Last Name>>,

We write today to request that you cosponsor H.R.3294, the bipartisan *IGNITE HBCU Excellence Act*.

Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) have always been agents of access and excellence in education, especially for Black students. While only representing roughly 3 percent of all four-year colleges and universities, HBCUs produce upwards of 17 percent of all bachelor’s degrees awarded to African Americans. However, the incredible success of these institutions has been achieved in spite of over a century of systemic underfunding at both the state and federal levels. Too often, HBCUs are forced to navigate the effects of chronic underfunding while also lacking the same access to alternate sources of capital available to other institutions. We believe that new federal investments are needed to ensure that HBCUs can continue their mission, while becoming even more competitive.

H.R. 3294 represents a transformational bipartisan proposal to rebuild and revitalize HBCU campus and digital infrastructure, while encouraging philanthropic and private investments. The bill would authorize a novel grant program that allows HBCUs to: renovate, repair, modernize, or construct new campus facilities; leverage private partnerships and federal research funding; preserve buildings with historic significance; procure research equipment; install high-speed broadband; and so much more. We strongly believe that HBCUs are vital to creating the 21st Century workforce that our nation and our industry needs to compete globally. Therefore, we respectfully request that you lend your support to this legislation and work expeditiously for its enactment.

If you have any questions about this legislation or would like to cosponsor the *IGNITE HBCU Excellence Act*, please contact Gordon Holzberg in Rep. Alma Adams’s office at Gordon.Holzberg@mail.house.gov or Amelia Allert in Rep. French Hill’s office at Amelia.Allert@mail.house.gov .

We appreciate your consideration of our request and your support of HBCUs.

Sincerely,