

March 26, 2020

Dear Colleagues:

Yesterday, the Senate voted unanimously to pass bipartisan COVID-19 emergency supplemental aid legislation, the Coronavirus Act, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act. The House is scheduled to vote on the CARES Act tomorrow, March 27. This unprecedented bill will offer much-needed relief to overburdened hospitals, individuals out of work, struggling small businesses and industry sectors hit hard by the pandemic. The bill also creates a \$30 billion Education Stabilization Fund for states, schools and higher education institutions to address the immense financial challenges facing our educational systems.

Last week, I joined campus presidents and chancellors from across the country in reaching out to our congressional leaders to impress upon them the critical issues our students, faculty and staff, and institutions face in this crisis. As a result, the CARES Act now includes more than \$14 billion for higher education.

About \$12 billion of this amount will go directly to institutions to cope with the immediate effects of COVID-19, including transition to digital learning platforms. Half of this funding is designated for students in the form of emergency grants. About \$3 billion will be distributed to governors for their use to support higher education and K-12 schools at their discretion. Additionally, there is special funding for minority-serving institutions.

Other provisions of the bill provide significant regulatory flexibilities for students and higher education institutions, such as:

- Relieve service requirements for TEACH grant recipients;
- Relax the lifetime limit on Pell funding awards;
- Suspend payments on student loans for six months without penalty or interest;
- Add tax incentives for individuals and corporations to make charitable donations; and
- Provide institutions relief from a return to Title IV requirements.

While this infusion of emergency funding for higher education is much appreciated, it does not fully address the needs of colleges and universities and the students we serve.

Congress already is discussing a fourth stimulus bill. Rest assured, I will continue to work closely with our Inland Empire congressional representatives and with our local state legislators to make the case for additional resources that our students, faculty and staff need and deserve, especially during these extraordinary times.

Sincerely,

**Tomás D. Morales**

President