

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

November 19, 2019

The Honorable Lamar Alexander
Chairman
Senate Committee on Health, Education,
Labor, and Pensions
428 Senate Dirksen Office Building,
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Health, Education,
Labor, and Pensions
428 Senate Dirksen Office Building,
Washington, D.C. 20510


Dear Chairman Alexander and Ranking Member Murray:

We write to express our support for the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions' efforts to reauthorize the Higher Education Act (HEA), which will equip students with the tools they need to succeed in tomorrow's workforce. The Higher Education Act of 1965 is in dire need of bipartisan, commonsense reform to better prepare students for the challenges and opportunities they will face in America's rapidly evolving economy.

Each week, we hear from Idaho's employers about their need for more qualified, skilled workers to meet the demands of our state's growing economy. Any reauthorization of the HEA must include provisions that expand access to career and technical education and make federal higher education programs more flexible for the next generation of students; therefore, we support efforts to expand Pell eligibility to students in short-term programs. Ultimately, HEA Reauthorization should empower states to tailor federal programs to better address the unique demands of their workforce.

We are confident your committee will continue to look for opportunities to bolster higher education for America's students. We lend our full support to your effort and hope to serve as a resource as you work to modernize this historic law to better meet the needs of today's students and tomorrow's workforce.

Sincerely,


James E. Risch
U.S. Senator


Mike Crapo
U.S. Senator