

Senator Tammy Duckworth
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Jerry Moran
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

September 21, 2022

Dear Senator Duckworth and Senator Moran:

We are writing to thank you for your commitment to student parents and to congratulate you on the passage of S.Res.777, National Student Parent Month, to designate September 2022 as “National Student Parent Month.” The undersigned organizations are thrilled to join you in celebrating the recognitions and achievements of student parents across the country this month.

Parenting students continue to make up almost a [quarter](#) of the undergraduate student population — almost 4 million students. Additionally, 37% of Black women, 27% of American Indian/Alaska Native women, 19% of Hispanic women, and 7% of Asian/Pacific Islander women in college are [single parents](#). Furthermore, [6 in 10](#) parenting students work over 30 hours per week combined with to going to school, studying, and caring for their children.

Parenting students are uniquely motivated to succeed in higher education, despite facing many challenges. In fact, student parents tend to have higher grade point averages than their non-parenting peers. But, due to structural barriers and lack of support, they are [10 times](#) less likely than students without children to complete a bachelor’s degree within five years. It is only by changing how the system serves this critical population that their likelihood of attaining a degree can increase.

Raising awareness about this population is critical to understanding their experiences and paving a smoother path for their postsecondary success. We are grateful for your commitment to supporting and celebrating student parents through the passage of the National Student Parent Month resolution and we look forward to continuing to work with you to support student parents.

Sincerely,

Higher Learning Advocates
Advance Vermont
America Forward
American Council on Education
ASCEND at the Aspen Institute
Association of Community College Trustees
Caroline Swabek, Director, Community Engagement, CAEL
Center for First-generation Student Success

College Promise
College Unbound
Generation Hope
Hope Center for College, Community, and Justice
Institute for Higher Education Policy (IHEP)
Imaginable Futures
Institute for Childhood Preparedness
Institute for Women's Policy Research
Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America
Jamestown Community College
Jeremiah Program
Jobs for the Future (JFF)
Kimberley Salazar, Parent Advisor, Ascend at the Aspen Institute
LeadMN - College Students Connecting for Change
LIFT
National College Transition Network/World Education
National Skills Coalition
National Women's Law Center
Nicole Alkire, Parent Advisor, Ascend at the Aspen Institute
One Family
PERG Learning
Project Self-Sufficiency
SchoolHouse Connection
Southern Illinois University Edwardsville
State Higher Education Executive Officers Association
Student Veterans of America
Teamer Strategy Group
The Education Trust
The Institute for College Access & Success
The Jed Foundation
UAspire
UHM Student Parents At Manoa
University of Michigan
UPCEA
Veterans Education Success
Women Employed