

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

Senator Tom Carper  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

September 24, 2024

Dear Senator Moran and Senator Carper:

Thank you for your commitment to student parents and for leading the efforts to make September 2024 the fourth annual “National Student Parent Month.” The undersigned 50 organizations and student parent advocates 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 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,

Today's Student Coalition

#StudentParentJoy

Ascend at the Aspen Institute

Association of Community College Trustees

Brightpoint Community College

Buckner Children and Family Services

Brightpoint Community College  
California Competes  
Campaign for College Opportunity  
Center for Higher Education Policy and Practice  
Community Foundation of Sarasota County  
Council for Adult and Experiential Learning  
Family Resource Center, UCI  
Generation Hope  
Imaginable Futures Services, LLC  
Inside Track  
Institute for Higher Education Policy  
Institute for Women's Policy Research  
Jeremiah Program  
Jobs for the Future  
John Burton Advocates for Youth  
LeadMN  
LIFT, Inc  
NASPA - Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education  
National Head Start Association  
National Skills Coalition  
National Women's Law Center  
New America Higher Education Program  
One Family  
Project Self-Sufficiency

Self-Sufficiency Program, UW-La Crosse  
State Higher Education Executive Officers Association  
Student Parent HELP Center University of Minnesota  
Student Veterans of America  
The Education Trust  
The Hope Center for College, Community, and Justice  
The Institute for College Access & Success (TICAS)  
UAspire  
University of Hawaii Bridge to Hope  
University of Hawaii at Manoa Student Parents  
UPCEA  
Won't She Do It

**Individual Names**

Nicole Alkire  
Jazmin Chagolla  
Lesley Del Rio  
Ja'Bette Lozupone  
Karlee Knuth  
Courtney Moore  
Kristen Roe  
Kimberly Wickstrom