

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

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

September 22, 2021

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. 362, National Student Parent Month, to designate September 2021 as the first annual “National Student Parent Month.” The undersigned organizations join in excitement and celebration of the recognitions and achievements of student parents across the country this month.

Over the course of the last three decades, the number of student parents pursuing post-secondary education has increased significantly. Student parents make up approximately [22 percent](#) of the undergraduate student population. [Seventy percent](#) of student parents are women, 47 percent of military-connected students are parents, and [43 percent](#) are students of color. This means nearly 4 million of today’s students are raising children in addition to earning their degrees or credentials.

Parenting students are uniquely motivated to succeed in higher education, despite being faced with many challenges, including lack of affordable child care, balancing work responsibilities and school work, and more. Especially during the COVID-19 pandemic, student parents have overcome often insurmountable challenges. On average, student parents have higher grade point averages than their non-parenting peers. But due to structural barriers and lack of support, they are [ten times](#) less likely than students without children to complete a bachelor’s degree within five years.

Again, 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 working with you to further support student parents.

Sincerely,

Advance Vermont  
Ascend at the Aspen Institute  
America Forward  
Center for First-generation Student Success  
COABE  
Generation Hope  
Healthy Teen Network  
Higher Learning Advocates

Hope Center for College, Community, and Justice  
Imaginable Futures  
Institute for Higher Education Policy (IHEP)  
Institute for Women's Policy Research  
Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America  
Jobs for the Future (JFF)  
Los Angeles Valley College Family Resource Center  
Monroe Community College  
NASPA - Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education  
National Military Family Association  
National Organization for Women  
New America Higher Education Program  
Oregon State University  
Project Self-Sufficiency  
Student Veterans of America  
Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors  
uAspire  
UCSB AS Commission on Disability Equality  
UPCEA  
Veterans Education Success  
Women Employed  
Young Invincibles