

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

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

September 19, 2023

Dear Senator Moran and Senator Carper:

We are writing to thank you for your commitment to student parents and to congratulate you on the passage of the resolution designating September 2023 as the third annual “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 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
Today's Student Coalition
Achieving the Dream
Advance Vermont
Alabama Possible
Ascend at the Aspen Institute
Buckner Children and Family Services
Center for First-generation Student Success
Center for Higher Education Policy and Practice
Center for Work-Life Law, Pregnant Scholar Initiative

College Promise
Council for Adult and Experiential Learning
Duet
Education Trust-West
Generation Hope
Healthy Teen Network
Imaginable Futures Services, LLC
Inside Track
Institute for Higher Education Policy
Institute for Women's Policy Research
LeadMN
Jobs For the Future
Monroe Community College
NASPA-Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education
National College Attainment Network
New America Higher Education Program
One Family
State Higher Education Executive Officers Association
Student Basic Needs Coalition
Student Veterans of America
Swipe Out Hunger
Teamer Strategy Group
Teen Network
The Education Trust
The Hope Center for College, Community, and Justice
The Institute for College Access and Success
Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors
UAspire
UHM Student Parents at Manoa Program
University of California Student Association
Women Employed

Individual Signatures

Cherill Baker, Parent Advisor, Ascend at the Aspen Institute
Karlee Knuth, Parent Advisor, Ascend at the Aspen Institute
Kimberly Salazar, Parent Advisor, Ascend at the Aspen Institute