Washington, DC 20515

September 19, 2025

Secretary Linda McMahon U.S. Department of Education 400 Maryland Avenue, SW Washington, D.C. 20202

Dear Secretary McMahon,

We write to express strong concern regarding the rescission of federal resources from Minority-Serving Institutions (MSIs), including Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs), Predominantly Black Institutions (PBIs), Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian-Serving Institutions (ANNHSIs), Asian American- and Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institutions (AANAPISIs), Native American-Serving Nontribal Institutions (NASNIs), and Minority Science and Engineering Improvement (MSEIPs) and diverting them to Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and Tribally Controlled Colleges and universities (TCUs). While we deeply value and support the role HBCUs and TCUs play in advancing educational opportunities, shifting resources from Minority-Serving Institutions undermines the broader national commitment to serve all students.

Minority Serving-Institutions collectively educate millions of first-generation, low-income, and underrepresented students. MSIs enroll some of the nation's most economically disadvantaged students, often serving as the only affordable pathway to higher education for their communities. These schools serve large concentrations of low-income students, many whom receive Title IV needs-based assistance, while consistently demonstrating higher rates of economic mobility than other institutions.

These colleges and universities play a critical role in advancing opportunities for students from all backgrounds who would otherwise be left behind. Diverting funds would not only hurt these institutions' ability to serve underrepresented students, but it would also disproportionately harm the students who rely on them for access to affordable, high-quality higher education.

Rather than forcing these institutions into competition over limited resources, federal policy should focus on increasing overall investment across the full spectrum of minority-serving institutions. Sustained, equitable funding ensures that HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs, can all fulfill their missions of expanding opportunity, reducing inequities, and strengthening our economy.

We urge you to reject efforts that pit these institutions against one another and instead champion comprehensive solutions that recognize the unique and complementary contributions of each. Our collective goal must be to uplift all students, no matter which institution they attend.

Sincerely,

Washington, DC 20515

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