



August 5, 2019



HERE Act of 2019

On July 18, 2019, Congressman Joaquin Castro (TX-20) introduced the Hispanic Educational Resources and Empowerment (HERE) Act of 2019, which is co-sponsored by over 35 members of Congress and has bipartisan support. The HERE Act ([H.R. 3827](#)) creates a new grant program at the U.S. Department of Education to support partnerships and collaboration between Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs) and school districts that educate the majority of Hispanic students.

Historically, PK-12 and higher education have been separate systems, with different principles of organization, sources of funding, governing bodies and laws. Students and their families have had the major responsibility of making the transition on their own from one system to the other.

HACU strongly supports the HERE Act and its focus on addressing the lingering opportunity and achievement gaps among Hispanic students, and the debilitating dynamic created by PK-12 and higher education not working together. [More>>](#)

Call to Action

Contact your representative and encourage them to co-sponsor the HERE Act of 2019 to ensure passage of this important bill. [Click here](#) to complete the call-to-action.

FUTURE Act

The authority and funding for Title III, Part F (HSI STEM and Articulation Program at the Dept. of Education) expires on September 30, 2019 and will not only impact HSIs but will be a significant loss for all Minority-Serving Institutions that have their respective program under this Title. HACU has made this one of its top priorities in its 116th Congress Legislative Agenda and is working with several congressional offices to extend the program's authority and funding.

Senators Doug Jones (D-AL) and Tim Scott (R-SC) along with Representatives Alma Adams (D-NC) and Mark Walker (R-NC) introduced the Fostering Undergraduate by Unlocking Resources for Education (FUTURE) Act (H.R. 2486 / S. 1279). The bill reauthorizes Title III, Part F of the Higher Education Act until the end of FY 2021. [More>>](#)

Call to Action

Contact your members of Congress and urge them to co-sponsor and pass the FUTURE Act before Title III, Part F expires in less than 60 days. [Click here](#) to complete the call-to-action.

Congress Passes Budget Cap and Debt Ceiling Agreement

On August 1, 2019, the Senate approved legislation that would set spending levels for the next two fiscal years, avoiding mandatory cuts to discretionary spending, and suspending the debt limit through July 2021, clearing the way for Congress to finalize the FY 2020 federal budget before the new fiscal year begins on October 1, 2019.

The 67-28 Senate vote came just as lawmakers were preparing to leave town for the August recess, and follows a 284-149 House vote last week before that chamber left town for its summer break. The legislation ([H.R. 3877](#)) now heads to President Donald Trump's desk, and he is expected to sign it into law.

The HACU Government Relations staff will provide an update on the final FY 2020 funding for HSIs once an agreement is reached.

In Case You Missed It:

HACU Announces Fellows for Inaugural Academia de Liderazgo/Leadership Academy

The Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities has announced 24 fellows have been selected for its Inaugural Presidential Leadership Academy, La Academia de Liderazgo. The program is designed to increase Hispanic representation in presidential positions in higher education. [More>>](#)

HACU Western Regional Office Update on California Budget and College Affordability

California Governor Gavin Newsom signed a \$214.8 billion budget on June 27, 2019, making it the state's largest budget to date. The 2019-2020 budget makes additional investments to make college more accessible and affordable. [More>>](#)

HACU statement on Supreme Court Action regarding DACA

HACU issued the following statement on the Supreme Court's decision to hear arguments on whether to end the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) Program. [More>>](#)

Forward this Washington Update to a colleague or friend. Encourage them to [sign-up](#) and join the [Advocacy Center](#) to lend their voice of support for HSIs and Latino students.