August 25, 2021

The Honorable Bobby Scott
Chairman
House Education & Labor Committee
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Virginia Foxx
Ranking Member
House Education & Labor Committee
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray
Chairwoman
Senate HELP Committee
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard Burr
Ranking Member
Senate HELP Committee
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Scott, Ranking Member Foxx, Chairwoman Murray, and Ranking Member Burr:

As the House and Senate consider funding priorities for the upcoming reconciliation bill, we, the undersigned organizations representing the interests of Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) students and Asian American, Native American, and Pacific Islander Serving Institutions (AANAPISI) write to ask you to ensure that the reconciliation provisions under the purview of the Education Committees maintains a focus on addressing educational equity issues and ensures that AANHPI students and AANAPISIs share in that educational equity. Specifically, we ask that Congress increase funding for AANAPISIs to $1 billion dollars for the 10-year length of the reconciliation bill to establish a base of support for students that have both been historically underserved in higher education and disproportionately harmed by the health, economic, educational, and racist impacts of the COVID-19 crisis. Of course, HBCUs, HSIs, TCUs, and other Minority-Serving Institutions (MSIs) are all underfunded compared to state flagship universities and other research institutions. That is why, although it is critical to equitably increase funding levels for AANAPISIs, any increase should not come at the expense of other MSIs.

The COVID-19 crisis has elevated the need to address long-standing racial, social, and economic inequalities and their intersections, and nowhere is it more evident than in our nation’s schools. Students across the country have encountered disruptions, including the transition to online learning; lack of consistent peer and school staff relationships; the loss of treasured activities and needed jobs; and the overall stress and emotional toll of the pandemic on their families and communities. Food insecurity, unreliable access to remote learning technology, and reduced access to student supports and education services are just some of the elements that have played a role in disrupting and diminishing vulnerable students’ learning opportunities and growth. AANHPI populations in particular have been traumatized during this pandemic, with an increased incidence of racially driven violence having been well-documented.

To address students’ interrupted instruction, and to meet the range of student needs and supports brought on by the crisis and the lack of connectivity to schools, states, and districts are in need of substantial additional federal support. The recession induced by COVID-19 has impacted and will continue to impact AANAPISIs and the students they serve and these institutions will face additional costs to provide the academic, health, and emotional support that students will need as they return to school.

During this unprecedented time of need and through the recognition of grave inequities within our education system, we request that the final budget reconciliation bill:
• Address the historic underfunding of AANAPISIs by increasing funding for AANAPISIs under the Higher Education Act Title III and Title V, Parts A and F, to $1 billion over the ten years of the bill ($100 million dollars annually). The increased funding will establish a base of support for students that have both been historically underserved in higher education and disproportionately harmed by the health, economic, educational, and racial impacts of the COVID-19 crisis.
• Ensure sufficient funding for MSIs generally so that such institutions are able to meet the increased needs of the students they serve and so that increases in AANAPISI funding do not come at the expense of other MSIs.

We are requesting this funding increase because AANAPISIs have been chronically underfunded since their establishment and remain the category of MSI with the lowest levels of Title III & V funding. For example, in FY 2021, AANAPISI appropriations received only 1% of all Title III & V funding for MSIs, totaling just $9.8 million. Per capita, AANAPISIs receive the least amount of federal funding compared to all other MSIs, averaging $59,606 per AANAPISI compared to $589,167 per HSI. In spite of this small allocation, AANAPISIs enroll 40% of all AANHPI undergraduates even though AANAPISIs make up only 5% of all colleges and universities in the United States.

Three-quarters of low-income AANHPI students attend an AANAPISI, and AANAPISIs are conferring a large concentration of both associate's and bachelor's degrees to AANHPI students. Low-income AANHPI students have a lower college-going rate and are at higher risk to leave without a degree or certificate. AANAPISIs provide critical support for these students by cultivating environments that promote the success of underserved AANHPI students and attending to their distinct needs.

Currently, 166 institutions have been identified by the U.S. Dept. of Education as an eligible AANAPISI, while only 20 of those institutions are actually receiving AANAPISI funding given the underfunding of this set of schools and students. If Congress were to equitably fund all 166 eligible AANAPISIs at the same level as HSIs, the AANAPISI program would require an annual funding amount of $100 million—the reason for our request for $1 billion over the 10-year length of the reconciliation bill.

COVID-19 has exacerbated and highlighted inequalities in our nation’s education system. Without continued intervention and attention, these opportunity gaps will continue to widen, threatening to further entrench them. We urge you to attend to the needs of AANHPI students and address the inequities in current federal funding for AANAPISIs by including these critical resources in the final reconciliation bill. Thank you for your attention to these critical issues.

Sincerely,

[The 225 undersigned individuals, institutions and organizations]

**American Samoa**
Rosevonne M. Pato, EdD
President, American Samoa Community College*

**Arizona**

Naomi Okumura Story, PhD
Executive Director, National Asian Pacific Islander Council, an affiliate council of AACC
California

Abe Ali, MA  
President, Asian Pacific Americans In Higher Education  
Mt. San Antonio College*

Aida Cuenza-Uvas, EdD  
Director, Arise Program  
Mt. San Antonio College*

Alan Mar David, MA  
Outreach Specialist  
Chabot College*

Amy La, PhD, MBA  
Licensed Psychologist  
Long Beach City College*

Anamarie Navarro  
Instructional Assistant  
Chabot College*

Ann Christine Fajilan, MFA  
Professor  
California State University, East Bay*

Arlene Daus-Magbual, EdD  
Director, Asian American & Pacific Islander Student Services  
San Francisco State University*

Arnab Mukherjea, DrPH, MPH  
Department Chair & Associate Professor of Public Health  
California State University, East Bay*

Arnold Paguio, MA  
Director of Student Life  
Chabot College*

Brandon Yanari, MA  
Program Coordinator, Southeast Asian American Student Excellence (SEAASE) Program  
Evergreen Valley College*

Brian Goo, MEd  
Director of AANAPISI Initiatives  
Mission College*
Caron Inouye, PhD  
Professor  
California State University, East Bay*

Chanthy Thompson, MS  
Academic Counselor  
Irvine Valley College*

Cheyenne Cheng  
Policy Fellow  
Japanese American Citizens League

Chris Lam Vazquez, MBA  
Contracts  
California State University, East Bay*

Christina Chin-Newman, PhD  
Professor of Human Development and Women's Studies  
California State University, East Bay*

Cindy Huynh, PhD  
Full-Time Faculty, Ethnic Studies  
San Jose City College

Cirian Villavicencio, EdD  
Professor and Chair of Political Science  
San Joaquin Delta College*

Cristina Baron  
Admissions & Records Assistant II  
Chabot College*

Danvy Le, PhD  
Assistant Professor  
California State University, East Bay*

David Lee, EdD  
Director, AANAPISI  
Laney College*

Deborah Dorffi Hansana, MA  
VA Benefits Coordinator & PASA Advisor  
California State University, East Bay*

Demeturie Toso-Laiaele Gogue, M.Ed., M.A.  
PhD Student  
University of California, Los Angeles
Diane Soriano, MSW
Counseling Faculty
Evergreen Valley College*

Doriann Tran, M.A.
Counselor
San Jose City College

Edwin Tiongson, MA
Faculty, Communication Studies / ELEVATE AAPI @ IVC
Irvine Valley College*

Elaine K. Ikeda, PhD
Executive Director,
California Campus Compact

Eun Rhee, PhD
Research Associate
California State University, East Bay*

Fanny Yeung, PhD
Director
California State University, East Bay*

Finausina Tovo, EdD
MANA Learning Community Coordinator
College of San Mateo*

Frances Hui, MLS
College Librarian
Las Positas College

Frank Chong, EdD
Superintendent/President
Santa Rosa Junior College

Frank Ko, MBA
College Professor
Chabot College*

Grace Yoo, PhD
Professor
San Francisco State University*

Henry C. V. Yong, EdD, Ed.S.
Chancellor
Yosemite Community College District
Ibrahim "Abe" Ali, MA
President, Asian Pacific Americans for Higher Education
Mt. San Antonio College*

Indrawati L. Joe, PhD
Research Analyst
Chabot College*

Janelle Wong, PhD
Co-Director
AAPI Data

Jean Lee
Student Records Evaluator
Chabot College*

Jude Paul Dizon, M.Ed.
Research Assistant
University of Southern California

Kay Fischer, MA
Instructor, Asian Pacific Islander Education Association
Chabot College*

Kenneth Songco, MPA
Director of Student Equity and Success
Mission College*

Kevin Gin, PhD
Senior Strategic Partner
California State University, East Bay*

Kim Geron, PhD
Principal Investigator and Professor emeritus of Political Science, Transfer Asian Pacific American Student Success
California State, East Bay*

Kimberly Hayes,
Executive Assistant
Long Beach City College*

Kirin Macapugay, MSW
Commissioner
California Commission on Asian Islander American Affairs

Kirti Reddy, MS
Executive Assistant, Office of the President
Chabot College*
Kyle Ishibashi, MA
Math Faculty
Chabot College*

Lena Tran, EdD
Vice President of Strategic Partnerships and Workforce Innovation
San Jose City College

Leroy M. Morishita, EdD
President Emeritus
California State University, East Bay*

Leslie Takei, MA
Instructor
San Jose City College

Lily Gossage, PhD
Director, Maximizing Engineering Potential
California State Polytechnic University, Pomona*

Linda Akutagawa
President & CEO
Leadership Education for Asian Pacifics (LEAP)

Lita Patel
Administrative Support Coordinator
California State Polytechnic University, Pomona*

Loan Huynh, MA
Academic Counselor
City College of San Francisco*

Marcia Gee Riley, MS
Director
University of California, Berkeley

Maria Elizabeth Oteyza
Administrative Assistant
Chabot College*

Maria Tchas
Program Specialist, DSO,
San Jose City College

Marie Alexandra R. Ibarra, MA
Asian American Pacific Islander Program Specialist
California State University, East Bay*
Mary Ann Takemoto (REZ), PhD
Associate VP Emerita
California State University, Long Beach*

May O Lee, MSW
Founding Member
APIs RISE Fund

Meiling Wu, PhD
Professor & Chair, SSOS-TAPASS AANAPISI Programs
California State University, East Bay*

Melissa Cardenas-Dow, MLIS, MS
Social Sciences Librarian
Sacramento State University

Melissa-Ann Nievera-Lozano, PhD
Professor of Ethnic Studies
Evergreen Valley College*

Michael R. Lai, MS.
Counseling Faculty, Asian Pacific Islander Education Association
Chabot College*

Ming-Lun Ho, MA
Mathematics Faculty
Chabot College*

Mo Her, MS
Academic Advisor, Asian Pacific Islander Faculty & Staff Association
California State, East Bay*

Mumtaj Ismail, MA
Faculty
Chabot College*

My Phung O, PhD
Professor & Director of Center for Student Research @ CSUEB
California State University, East Bay*

Na Liu, PhD
Research Analyst
Chabot College*

Nicole Albrecht, MS
Grant Writer/Developer
Chabot College*
Nkauj Iab Yang
Executive Director
California Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander American Affairs

Omar Murillo, Ed.D.
Educational Leader

Patricia Tutasi Asuega
Program Specialist II
Mt. San Antonio College*

Peleise Smith
Administrative Assistant
Long Beach City College*

Raiida Thompson, MA
Program Analyst
Mission College*

Regina Ip, MA
Web/Social Manager
Santa Monica College

Robert Nakamoto, EdD
Interim Dean, Social Sciences
Chabot College*

Robert Teranishi, PhD
Professor
University of California, Los Angeles

Rose Ann E. Gutierrez, MA, PhD Candidate
University of California, Los Angeles

Rowena M. Tomaneng, EdD
President
San Jose City College

Saleem Gilmore, M.A.Ed.
Executive Director
California State University, East Bay*

Samantha Rajaram, JD
Instructor/Professor
Chabot College*
Serena Kirk
Commissioner
California Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander American Affairs

Stacey Smith-Clark, MA
Program Manager
Long Beach City College*

Suhaila Khan, MD, MPH, PhD
CEO
SHK Global Health

Tammeil Gilkerson, EdD
President
Evergreen Valley College*

Tavae Samuelu
Executive Director
Empowering Pacific Islander Communities (EPIC)

Tiffany Rodriguez-Tran, MA
Sr. Division Admin Assistant
San José-Evergreen Community College District

Timothy Fong, PhD
Professor of Ethnic Studies
California State University, Sacramento*

Varaxy Yi Borromeo, PhD
Assistant Professor
California State University, Fresno*

Victoria Ugaki
Sr. Instructional Assistant
Chabot College*

Virginia Loh-Hagan, EdD
Director, Asian Pacific Islander Desi American Resource Center
San Diego State University*

Wyman Fong, MS
Board Member, Asian Pacific Americans in Higher Education

Yvonne Wu Craig, MA
Executive Director of Institutional Advancement
College
**Colorado**

DJ Ida, PhD  
Executive Director  
National Asian American Pacific Islander Mental Health Association

Dong Dinh, MA  
4D Program Coordinator  
University of Denver

Mike Hoa Nguyen, PhD  
Assistant Professor  
University of Denver

**District of Columbia/National Organizations**

Chris Topoleski  
Legislative Director  
National Indian Education Association (NIEA)

Kathryn Gimborys  
Senior Government Affairs Associate  
Institute for Higher Education Policy (IHEP)

Maggie Tsai  
Data and Program Coordinator  
Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance

Michael Nguyen, JD  
Associate Manger of Policy  
OCA – Asian Pacific American Advocates

Natalie Truong, MA  
Education Policy Manager  
Southeast Asia Resource Action Center (SEARAC)

National Women’s Law Center

Noël S. Harmon, PhD.  
President & Executive Director  
APIA Scholars

Pele le,  
Associate  
Institute for Educational Leadership, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities*
Victoria Kirby York  
Deputy Executive Director  
National Black Justice Coalition  

Young Noh Jung  
Senior Policy Advisor  
National Council of Asian Pacific Americans  

Guam  

Alicia Cruz Aguon, PhD  
Dean, School of Education  
University of Guam*  

Annette Taijeron Santos, DBA  
Dean, Business & Public Administration  
University of Guam*  

Deborah D. Leon Guerrero  
Vice Provost, Institutional Effectiveness  
University of Guam*  

James Darly Sellmann, PhD  
Dean  
University of Guam*  

John Wilson Howerton, MA  
Recruiting Operations Officer, Army ROTC  
University of Guam*  

Katrina Perez, AM  
Executive Director, Endowment Foundation  
University of Guam*  

Laurie Jeanne Raymundo, PhD  
Director, Marine Laboratory  
University of Guam*  

Mark A. Duarte, MPA  
Director of Financial Aid  
University of Guam*  

Mary A. Y. Okada, EdD  
President/CEO  
Guam Community College*  

Robert A Underwood, EdD
President Emeritus; Former Member of Congress
University of Guam*

Rowena Andrade
Director, TRIO Upward Bound Program
University of Guam*

Sharleen Santos-Bamba, PhD
Associate Dean
University of Guam*

Troy McVey, EdD
Vice Provost
University of Guam*

Hawaiʻi

Brandy Nālani McDougall, PhD
Associate Professor
University of Hawaii at Manoa*

Christine Quemuel, PhD
Interim Assistant Vice Provost for Diversity
University of Hawaii at Manoa*

Frankie L. Harriss, EdD
Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs
Kauaʻi Community College*

Halaevalu Vakalahi, PhD
Dean and Professor
Hawaiʻi Pacific University*

Jeannette Soon-Ludes, PhD
Consultant
Haumana Consulting

Lori M. Ideta, EdD
Vice Provost
State Higher Education

Melanie Dorado Wilson, EdD
Interim Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs
Hawaii Community College*

Rachel Solemsaas, EdD
Illinois

Alyson Hing Yee Kung
Assistant Director for Education and Outreach, Asian American Resource and Cultural Center
University of Illinois at Chicago*

Anna Guevarra, PhD
Founding Director and Associate Professor, Global Asian Studies
University of Illinois Chicago*

Clare Kim, PhD
Assistant Professor
University of Illinois, Chicago*

Edwin Chandrasekar, MBA
Vice President and Chief Financial Officer
Oakton Community College*

Gayatri Reddy, PhD
Associate Professor
University of Illinois, Chicago*

Justin Phan, PhD
Postdoctoral Research Associate of Global Asian Studies
University of Illinois, Chicago*

Karen Su, PhD
Clinical Assistant Professor of Global Asian Studies
University of Illinois, Chicago*

Mark Martell, PhD
Director, Asian American Resource and Cultural Center
University of Illinois, Chicago*

Indiana

Natasha Saelua, MA
Doctoral Candidate
Indiana University

Marshall Islands

Irene Taafaki, EdD
President
College of the Marshall Islands*

Massachusetts

Cherry Lim, MA
AAPI Academic Coordinator
Bunker Hill Community College*

Christopher Fung, PhD
Senior Lecturer in Anthropology and Native American and Indigenous Studies
University of Massachusetts, Boston*

Erica Lam
Career and Alumni Coordinator
Asian American Student Success Program
University of Massachusetts, Boston*

Franklyn Taylor, EdD
Associate Provost
Bunker Hill Community College*

Karen Chi
Program Coordinator
Asian American Student Success Program
University of Massachusetts, Boston*

Leslie Wong, MS
Dean of Equity & Inclusion
University of Massachusetts, Lowell*

Linda Thiem, M. Ed
Program Specialist, Program for Asian American Student Advancement
Middlesex Community College*

Maria Kathleen N. Puente, MA
AANAPISI Project Director
Bunker Hill Community College*

Minhyung Joo, PhD
Assistant Professor
University of Massachusetts, Lowell*

Pam Eddinger, PhD
President
Bunker Hill Community College*
Patricia Neilson, EdD
Independent Consultant
Hawaiian Islands Unlimited, Consulting

Paul Watanabe, PhD
Director, Institute for Asian American Studies, and Professor, Political Science
University of Massachusetts, Boston*

Phitsamay S. Uy, EdD
Associate Professor & Co-director of Center for Asian American Studies
University of Massachusetts, Lowell*

Ping-Ann Addo, PhD
Associate Professor, Anthropology
University of Massachusetts, Boston*

Pratna Kem, MA
Assistant Director
Asian American Student Success Program
University of Massachusetts, Boston*

Sara Boxell, MA
Director, Asian American Student Success Program
University of Massachusetts, Boston*

Satyak Som
Language Lab Tutor
Bunker Hill Community College*

Sue J. Kim, PhD
Co-Director, Center for Asian American Studies
University of Massachusetts, Lowell*

Virak Uy
Director/Program for Asian American Student Advancement
Middlesex Community College*

**Minnesota**

Alina Xiong
Student

Amanda Son
Student
University of Minnesota, Twin Cities*

Ariana Yang
PhD Candidate
University of Minnesota, Twin Cities*

Ashlie Hamilton
College Student
University of Minnesota, Twin Cities*

Bic Ngo, PhD
Professor
University of Minnesota, Twin Cities*

Blia Thor
Student
Asian Pacific American Resource Center
University of Minnesota, Twin Cities*

Brenda
Alumni
Asian Pacific American Resource Center, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities*

Diana Chandara, PhD Candidate
University of Minnesota, Twin Cities*

Diane Tam
Student Coordinator, Asian Pacific American Resource Center
University of Minnesota, Twin Cities*

Han Phung
Graduate Student Asian Pacific American Resource Center
University of Minnesota, Twin Cities*

Haruka Yukioka
Undergraduate Student
University of Minnesota, Twin Cities*

Helen yu
Student
University of Minnesota, Twin Cities*

Jacqueline Zhang
Student
University of Minnesota, Twin Cities*

Jenny Jin Tam
Student Coordinator Alumni
University of Minnesota, Twin Cities*
Jodie Tanaka
Interim Executive Director
Hmong American Partnership

Kaochi Pha
Admissions Counselor
University of Minnesota, Twin Cities*

Katrina Mutuc
Former AAPI Mentorship Program Staff, Asian Pacific American Resource Center
University of Minnesota, Twin Cities*

Kevin Huynh
Network Coordinator, Coalition of Asian American Leaders
University of Minnesota, Twin Cities*

Khoa Nguyen
ASPIRE Student Coordinator/Student, Asian Pacific American Resource Center
University of Minnesota, Twin Cities*

Kong Her, MA
Program Director, Asian Pacific American Resource Center
University of Minnesota, Twin Cities*

Leia Liang
Prior Student Coordinator, Asian Pacific American Resource Center
University of Minnesota, Twin Cities*

Ma Xiong-Nguyen
TRIO Advisor and Retention Specialist
Metropolitan State University*

Maikha Xiong
Executive Administrative & Office Specialist
University of Minnesota, Twin Cities*

Maya Thariani
Student coordinator, Asian Pacific American Resource Center
University of Minnesota, Twin Cities*

Pachia Thao
Admissions Counselor
University of Minnesota, Twin Cities*

Sarah Burger
Lab Technician
University of Minnesota, Twin Cities*
Satugarn Limthongviratn, M.Ed.
Program Coordinator for the Asian Pacific American Resource Center
University of Minnesota, Twin Cities*

Saulkdi Yangh
Undergraduate Student
University of Minnesota, Twin Cities*

Shouazong Hang
Intern, Interdisciplinary Research Leaders
University of Minnesota, Twin Cities*

Summer A
Private Citizen

Taha Rizvi
Alumni
University of Minnesota, Twin Cities*

Thong Vang, MA
Graduate Assistant, Asian Pacific American Resource Center
University of Minnesota, Twin Cities*

Tiana Lien
Student
University of Minnesota, Twin Cities*

Vivian Pham
Student
University of Minnesota, Twin Cities*

Vivian Pham
Student, Asian Pacific American Resource Center
University of Minnesota, Twin Cities*

Yoko Vue
Private Citizen

**Nevada**

Blanca Rincon, PhD
Assistant Professor
University of Nevada, Las Vegas*

Daniel Perez, MA
Doctoral Candidate, Department of Anthropology
University of Nevada, Las Vegas*
Federick J Ngo, PhD
Assistant Professor
University of Nevada, Las Vegas*

Juliet Geary
Senior Director of Communications
University of Nevada, Las Vegas*

Keren Delivrance Jean-Charles
Council Member, Minority Serving Institution Student Council
University of Nevada, Las Vegas*

Kristine Jan Cruz Espinoza, M.Ed.
PhD Student
University of Nevada, Las Vegas*

Natalie Gutierrez
UNLV Minority Serving Institution Student Council Member
University of Nevada, Las Vegas*

Paula Angeline Reyes
Student Member, Minority Serving Institution Student Council
University of Nevada, Las Vegas*

Terri Bernstein, MA. Ed.
Private Citizen

New York

Caitlin Ho, MS
Program Director, Hunter College AANAPISI Project (HCAP)
Hunter College*

Nadia Saleh
ABI Assistant
The Research Foundation of CUNY

Paul R McPherron, PhD
Professor, English
Hunter College of the City University of New York (CUNY)*

Soniya Munshi, PhD
Associate Professor
Borough of Manhattan Community College, CUNY*

Northern Mariana Islands
Daisy P. Manglona-Propst
Director of Financial Aid
Northern Marianas College*

Frankie Eliptico
VP, Administration & Advancement
Northern Marianas College*

Oregon

Mark Mitsui, MEd
President
Portland Community College

Patricia Fifita, PhD
Adjunct Professor
Oregon State University

Shpresa Halimi, PhD
Director, AANAPISI Initiative for Inclusive Student Success
Pacific University*

Palau

Thomas Borja
Director
Palau Community College*

Texas

Zarina Blankenbaker, PhD
Campus President
Tarrant County College - Northwest Campus

Utah

ʻInoke Hafoka, PhD
Researcher / Associate Instructor
University of Utah

Kyle Reyes, PhD
Vice President of Student Affairs
Utah Valley University

Washington
Holly Barker, PhD
Teaching Professor, Curator
University of Washington, Burke Museum

Johnny Hu, EdD
Vice President of Instruction
Bates Technical College

Lin Zhou, PhD
President
Bates Technical College

May Toy Lukens, MA
Special Projects/Guided Pathways Project Director
Highline College*

Miguel Akira Smith
AANAPISI Retention Manager
Pierce College*

Rosie Rimando-Chareunsap, PhD
President
South Seattle College

Tigana Van Le
Graduate

Note: All titles and affiliations are for identification purposes only. Signatories are acting as private citizens and not necessarily on behalf of their institutions/organizations.

*Eligible AANAPISI