

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

December 4, 2020

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
The Capitol, S-230
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate
The Capitol, S-221
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Majority Leader McConnell and Minority Leader Schumer:

As the 116th Congress draws to a close, we urge you to include the College Transparency Act in an end-of-the-year agreement.

Accurate accounting of the value of postsecondary education is essential to allow students and families to make informed decisions about their education, and to allow policymakers and the public to better understand how institutions of higher education are serving their students. The College Transparency Act does this by establishing a federal student-level data system, which will reform and improve the current system to provide accurate, timely, and high-quality aggregate data regarding student outcomes in a user-friendly, transparent way for students and families, policymakers, institutions, and businesses, enabling them to answer critical questions about student access and success.

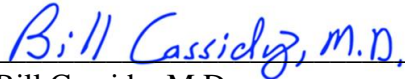
The College Transparency Act has broad bipartisan support in both the House and Senate Chambers. In the House, the legislation has 234 cosponsors, including 151 Democratic cosponsors and 83 Republican cosponsors, and it was included as introduced in the College Affordability Act passed by the House Committee on Education and Labor. In the Senate, the legislation has 37 cosponsors, including 17 Democratic cosponsors and 20 Republican cosponsors. Together, more than half of all voting Members of Congress – including those in the House and the Senate – have cosponsored the legislation.

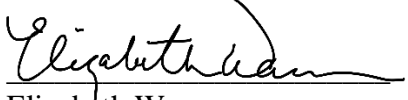
As families are grappling with tougher financial decisions and budgets that are more strained than ever, and as policymakers are making difficult decisions about the future of our higher education system, we have no time to waste. The data system created by the College Transparency Act is expected to take up to four years to establish, because doing so requires extensive measures to ensure student data privacy and security. This is an essential part of the legislation, but it delays when the system will be able to provide the much-needed transparency to students, parents, and policymakers about the value of postsecondary education. Until Congress passes the widely supported, strongly bipartisan College Transparency Act, students and families will continue to be left in the dark about the return on investment in postsecondary education.


As end-of-the-year legislation is considered, we believe that the College Transparency Act should be considered must-pass legislation. This year, taxpayers invested billions more in institutions of higher education than in recent years. It's more important than ever for students, families, and taxpayers to see a return on that investment. Now is the time to pass the College Transparency Act.


Thank you for your consideration. Please do not hesitate to let our offices know if you have any questions.


Sincerely,

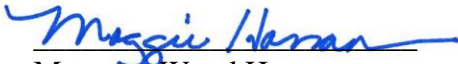

Bill Cassidy, M.D.
United States Senator



Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator


Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator



Tim Scott
United States Senator


Joni K. Ernst
United States Senator


Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator


Christopher Murphy
United States Senator


Lindsey O. Graham
United States Senator


Tim Kaine
United States Senator

Cc: The Honorable Richard Shelby
The Honorable Patrick Leahy
The Honorable Roy Blunt
The Honorable Patty Murray
The Honorable Lamar Alexander