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## Congress of the United States House of Representatives

October 20, 2025

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION  
AND INFRASTRUCTURE

**RANKING MEMBER**  
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WESTERN HEMISPHERE SUBCOMMITTEE

SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE STRATEGIC  
COMPETITION BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES  
AND THE CHINESE COMMUNIST PARTY

Michael Crow  
President  
Arizona State University  
PO Box 877705  
Tempe, AZ 85287-7705

President Crow:

I write today to urge Arizona State University (ASU) to reject any offer by the Trump administration to sign a “Compact for Academic Excellence in Higher Education.” The compact, first offered to nine universities in September, promises preferential access to federal grants in exchange for complying with White House demands. Since then, six of the schools have rejected it.<sup>1</sup> Finding little success with its first round of targets, the White House has approached additional schools about the compact, including ASU, according to reporting in the *Wall Street Journal*.<sup>2</sup>

Under your leadership, ASU has become a national model for excellence in higher education. Despite woeful state underinvestment, ASU leads as one of our country’s top public institutions of higher education—an R1 research university that is rising to meet our global challenges in water, semiconductors, sustainability, and more. For eleven years straight, ASU has been ranked number one in innovation and is a successful Hispanic Serving Institution. During your tenure, ASU’s research dollars have increased exponentially, based on scientific merit, not preferential treatment.

The Trump administration’s proposed compact represents an unprecedented intrusion into higher education, replacing academic freedom and institutional judgment with ideological dictates and rigid mandates. These aren’t reforms—they’re instruments of political control. By dictating who universities admit and hire, what they teach, and even how they conduct research, the Trump administration aims to strip higher education of its independence and bend it into an arm of his political power.

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<sup>1</sup> Nadworny, Elissa. “As Deadline for Trump’s Colleges Compact Looms, Schools Signal Dissent.” NPR, 20 Oct. 2025, [www.npr.org/2025/10/20/nx-s1-5579618/trump-college-university-compact-uva-mit-dartmouth](http://www.npr.org/2025/10/20/nx-s1-5579618/trump-college-university-compact-uva-mit-dartmouth).

<sup>2</sup> Belkin, Douglas, et al. *White House Meets With New Colleges About ‘Compact’ After Rejections*, The Wall Street Journal, 17 Oct. 2025, [www.wsj.com/us-news/education/trump-administration-meets-with-more-colleges-about-sweeping-compact-after-rejections-153bfca4?gaa\\_at=eafs&gaa\\_n=AWEtscqWjlAa6uvRH8BS9\\_KVAc-HdnlYWcwe260PIb9FTKpnQaaLEuzXapW4&gaa\\_ts=68f683f7&gaa\\_sig=hDin4XIPa3EXItmD-nHJLS8z373-ittXLm5yyuJ-UlmFDDFqpUZ9TfwnEV2Ab1QjlpRYsRFtOYjBhqpeICRvJg%3D%3D](http://www.wsj.com/us-news/education/trump-administration-meets-with-more-colleges-about-sweeping-compact-after-rejections-153bfca4?gaa_at=eafs&gaa_n=AWEtscqWjlAa6uvRH8BS9_KVAc-HdnlYWcwe260PIb9FTKpnQaaLEuzXapW4&gaa_ts=68f683f7&gaa_sig=hDin4XIPa3EXItmD-nHJLS8z373-ittXLm5yyuJ-UlmFDDFqpUZ9TfwnEV2Ab1QjlpRYsRFtOYjBhqpeICRvJg%3D%3D).

I urge you to reject any offer of this compact. Protect Arizona State University's independence. Protect academic freedom. And protect the principle that universities serve truth, not political power.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Greg Stanton". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Greg Stanton  
Member of Congress