

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

August 25, 2025

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Mr. President:

As Members of Congress who proudly represent Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs), we write to express our strong opposition to your administration's decision to abandon the defense of the HSI grant program in federal court. We urge you to immediately reconsider and uphold the federal government's commitment to these institutions and the communities they serve.

Congress created the HSI through Title V of the Higher Education Act of 1965 and funds it annually through the appropriations process. Last year alone, Congress appropriated more than \$350 million in competitive grants to HSIs. These grants allow colleges and universities to expand advising, modernize laboratories, improve facilities, strengthen student support services, and build the institutional capacity needed to educate the fastest-growing segment of the college population.

Without these resources, HSIs would be forced to scale back programs, delay or cancel infrastructure upgrades, and lose ground in their ability to compete with better-funded institutions. The harm will not stop with Latino students. These cuts will diminish the quality of education and services for every student on these campuses, regardless of race or background. These programs enroll more than two-thirds of Latino undergraduates, but they also serve large numbers of veterans, first-generation students, working adults, and more. Weakening them undermines our economic competitiveness and erodes pathways to opportunity for all.

This is a time when we need to be investing in our workforce to compete on the global stage, not backing away from it. In fact, Third Way found that HSIs strengthen and diversify STEM fields and the rapidly growing STEM workforce. In practice, these students become the semiconductor workers and researchers the United States needs in order to compete abroad.

Congress enacted and continues to fund the HSI program with broad bipartisan support. HSIs are indispensable to our nation's higher education system. Choosing to ignore or not defend it is not simply a policy disagreement; it is refusing to uphold the law. Until and unless a court strikes it down, your administration is required to carry it out.

We strongly urge you to reverse this decision. The future of hundreds of institutions, and the millions of students they educate, depends on it.

Sincerely,



Greg Stanton
Member of Congress



Mike Levin
Member of Congress