

Dear Rep. <<Member Last Name>>,

I write today to request that you **cosponsor** H.R. 8791, the IGNITE HBCU Excellence Act, which is being co-lead in the House of Representatives by Rep. French Hill and Rep. Alma Adams.

Historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs) have always been agents of equity, access and excellence in education, especially for students of color. While only representing roughly 3% of all four-year colleges and universities, HBCUs produce upwards of 17% of all bachelor's degrees awarded to African Americans. However, the incredible success of these institutions has been achieved in spite of more than a century of underfunding at both the state and federal levels. Too often, HBCUs are forced to navigate the effects of chronic underfunding while also lacking the same access to alternate sources of capital available to other institutions.

H.R. 8791 represents a transformational bipartisan proposal to rebuild and revitalize HBCU campuses and digital infrastructure. The bill would authorize a novel grant program that allows HBCUs to: renovate, repair, modernize or construct new campus facilities; leverage private partnerships and federal research funding; preserve buildings with historic significance; procure research equipment; install high-speed broadband; and so much more. We strongly believe that HBCUs are vital to creating the 21st-century workforce that our nation needs to compete globally. Therefore, we respectfully request that you lend your support to this legislation and work expeditiously for its enactment.

If you have any questions about this legislation or would like to cosponsor the IGNITE HBCU Excellence Act, please contact Jonas Brock in Rep. French Hill's office at Jonas.Brock@mail.house.gov or Ruben Cedillo in Rep. Alma Adams' office at Ruben.Cedillo@mail.house.gov.

We appreciate your consideration of our request and your support of HBCUs.

Sincerely,