

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3309

August 26, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232, U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

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

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
H-204, U.S. Capitol
Washington D.C. 20515

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Democratic Leader
U.S. Senate
S-220, U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Majority Leader McConnell, Minority Leader McCarthy, and Minority Leader Schumer:

We write today to ask that you consider supplemental funding for Native American-Serving Nontribal Institutions (NASNTIs) in any future COVID-19 legislation considered by Congress. NASNTIs play an important role in postsecondary education, serving student populations that are at least 10 percent Native American. Each of us is proud to represent these institutions in Congress.

As of this year, there are 37 NASNTIs that educate 80,000 students (20 percent of whom are American Indian or Alaska Native) across 10 states. The NASNTI schools provide a critical access point to higher education for Native students and they are avenues of success for a population of students that has been underrepresented in higher education. Despite this vital role, NASNTI schools collectively received only \$6.1 million in relief from the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund in the CARES Act. That amounts to just 0.6 percent of the \$1 billion provided for Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs). Given the consequential part that NASNTI schools play in educating Native American students and the fact that these schools are facing COVID-19 related budget shortfalls in the millions, it is clear that more relief is warranted and necessary.

Promoting opportunity and upward mobility for Native American students is an important policy goal and should be a priority for the federal government. Therefore, we echo the request of our Senate colleagues and ask that any future COVID-19 relief package include at least \$27 million in funding for NASNTIs.

Sincerely,



Dan Bishop
Member of Congress



Diana DeGette
Member of Congress



Kendra S. Horn
Member of Congress



Collin C. Peterson
Member of Congress