



TUITION PAYER BILL OF RIGHTS

- 1. WHEREAS**, the COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in a breach of delivery of the quality educational experience, services and activities that college students and their families paid for; and
- 2. WHEREAS**, the unprecedented event has illuminated an enduring lack of basic consumer protections for college students including the denial of refunds for services not delivered; and
- 3. WHEREAS**, some students across the country have resorted to filing class action lawsuits to recover their investments; and
- 4. WHEREAS**, the abrupt transition to online education has sparked legitimate concern over the value of on-campus versus remote instruction in higher education; and
- 5. WHEREAS**, the availability of lower-priced, quality online education options is a goal institutional leaders and state policymakers should strive toward; and
- 6. WHEREAS**, state funding formulas for institutions and programs should be revised to ensure public resources reach students that need them most; and
- 7. WHEREAS**, institutions of higher education should listen to students, faculty and staff and prioritize their health and safety in plans to reopen campuses in fall 2020 with assistance from state and federal policymakers; and
- 8. WHEREAS**, better information will help students make more informed financial decisions about their education and future, and a lack of data transparency undermines confidence; and
- 9. WHEREAS**, students deserve a greater voice and choice when it comes to their education;

WE, THE UNDERSIGNED, HEREBY RESOLVE THAT every college student in America should have the:

- RIGHT TO FINANCIAL TRANSPARENCY** — The right to a clear and detailed explanation of anticipated costs and those incurred to earn a college education; of financial aid and payment obligations; and of billing and how colleges spend money.
- RIGHT TO KNOW THE VALUE OF A DEGREE** — The right to be informed of the earnings premium that former students earn beyond the typical high school graduate before enrolling in an institution of higher education.
- RIGHT TO OPT OUT OF NON-ESSENTIAL SERVICES** — The right to opt-out of paying fees levied for collegiate athletics, recreation, and other non-essential services.
- RIGHT TO NO-COST ALTERNATIVES TO TEXTBOOKS** — The right to be given the option of no-cost online texts and materials.
- RIGHT TO SPEAK** — The right to address college governing and advisory boards in a public comment period during open board meetings before decisions are made.
- RIGHT TO ADVERTISED BENEFITS AND REFUNDS** — The right to receive the full benefits owed to students through payment of tuition, fees, and room and board and to be refunded for services not rendered.