



February 21, 2022

**The Honorable Senator Chris Coons**

United States Senate  
218 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Coons,

The American College Health Association (ACHA) thanks you for your leadership in sponsoring the Institutional Grants for New Infrastructure, Technology, and Education for HBCU Excellence Act, or the IGNITE HBCU Excellence Act and we offer our endorsement of this important piece of legislation.

As you know, the American College Health Association serves as the voice for student health and wellness. Through advocacy, research, and education, ACHA stands at the forefront of issues that impact the health and wellness of our college students. Our membership includes approximately 600 institutional members that represent the diversity of the higher education community and nearly 7,500 individual health care professionals such as physicians, physician assistants, administrators, nurses, nurse practitioners, and more. Our mission is to serve as the principal leadership organization for advancing the health of college students and campus communities through advocacy, education, and research.

We appreciate the significant investment that the IGNITE HBCU Excellence Act would provide to the historically underfunded Historically Black Colleges and Universities. And in doing so, provide opportunities for these outstanding institutions to further invest in the health and wellbeing services provided to its students. With HBCUs producing nearly 20 percent of all bachelor's degrees awarded to African Americans and the health and particularly mental health challenges disproportionately impacting communities of color, such investments are particularly needed.

It is ACHA's mission to ensure that all institutions can provide quality care services that are accessible and support students' needs, wants, and life goals, and made universal to all and not discriminating in any way. Including, but not limited to: adequate campus facilities; health and social services; and sustainability of campus facilities. That is why ACHA is excited to endorse the IGNITE HBCU Excellence Act and look forward to working with your office to help garner great bi-partisan support for this important piece of legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "James Wilkinson", written in a cursive style.

James Wilkinson  
CEO