April 8, 2020

Dear Senators Bennet and Gardner and Representatives DeGette, Neguse, Tipton, Buck, Lamborn, Crow and Perlmutter,

We write to express our appreciation for your leadership and support of higher education during these troubling times. We are grateful for your work to address the economic impacts of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic on our institutions, our students, our employees, as well as the local communities we serve. While we represent diverse institutions, we speak with one voice on behalf of Colorado higher education.

The safety and well-being of students, faculty, staff, and local communities is our top priority. We are thankful and GRATEFUL to our Colorado Members for your swift action to provide much-needed support for essential health care services; economic relief to states, students and institutions of higher education; and regulatory flexibility for students and borrowers. The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act is essential to begin to address the needs on our campuses and in our communities.

Higher education is uniquely positioned to play a critical role in the statewide aid effort, with our talented student body and diverse faculty expertise. In recent weeks, our institutions have offered up our facilities as COVID-19 safe havens, spill over hospitals, and housing, as well as have donated personal protective equipment or are using 3D printers to create this equipment for the people, organizations, and agencies on the front lines of this pandemic. Our institutions are committed to having a positive impact across Colorado by contributing to the COVID-19 response, and partnering with our federal representatives. Our campuses and institutions have been critical community partners and have had a huge impact across Colorado by contributing to the COVID-19 response, partnering with our Governor, our state legislators and you (our federal representatives).

We look forward to continuing our strategic partnership and our incredible work together on behalf of Colorado. We are grateful for your voices in Congress on behalf of not only higher education institutions but on all areas that serve our beautiful state.

Sincerely,

Angie Paccione, Executive Director, Colorado Department of Higher Education
Tony Frank, Chancellor, Colorado State University System
Leah L. Bornstein, President, Aims Community College
Greg Salsbury, President, Western Colorado University
Charles G. Lief, President, Naropa University
Janine Davidson, President, Metropolitan State University of Denver
Stephanie Donner, Executive Director, Emily Griffith Technical College
Rev. John P. Fitzgibbons, S.J., President, Regis University
Paul Johnson, President, Colorado School of Mines
Jill Tiefenthaler, President, Colorado College
Cheryl D. Lovell, President, Adams State University
Jeremy Haefner, Chancellor, University of Denver
Carrie Besnette Hauser, President, Colorado Mountain College
Tim Foster, President, Colorado Mesa University
Joe Garcia, Chancellor, Colorado Community College System
Andy Feinstein, President, University of Northern Colorado
Colleen Walker, Chief Executive Officer, Auraria Higher Education Center
Tom Stritikus, President, Fort Lewis College
Donald W. Sweeting, President, Colorado Christian University
Mark R. Kennedy, President, University of Colorado System