

July 26, 2018

The Hon. Orrin Hatch
U.S. Senator
104 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Hon. Michael Bennet
U.S. Senator
261 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Hon. Todd Young
U.S. Senator
400 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Hatch, Senator Bennet, and Senator Young,

As local, state, and national organizations committed to investing in what works, we are writing to express our support for the Fund for Innovation and Success in Higher Education (FINISH) Act.

American colleges and universities have great untapped potential to increase economic opportunity and strengthen our democracy. Yet despite the fact that a growing number of higher education institutions and their partners have developed an increasing number of evidence-based solutions, we must accelerate this progress more broadly across the country.

We commend you for introducing the FINISH Act, which would leverage the power of evidence and innovation to improve outcomes in higher education. Specifically, we appreciate the inclusion of provisions in your legislation that would:

- create a tiered-evidence innovation fund that would test, replicate, and scale up successful approaches to improving access to and completion in higher education, including partnerships among states, nonprofits, K-12 institutions, and institutions of higher education;
- encourage institutions of higher education to create open educational resources;
- authorize 5 pilot Pay for Success initiatives that would invest federal funds in proven solutions once they demonstrate results; and
- authorize the U.S. Department of Education and Institute of Education Sciences to invest up to 1 percent of federal funds in evaluations to continuously improve their impact and results.

We believe that strategic investments in innovation, evidence-based practices, and evaluations have the potential to help many more students access and succeed in higher education.

Thank you for your continued efforts to ensure that federal taxpayer dollars are invested in what works in higher education.

Sincerely,

Abriendo Puertas/Opening Doors
America Forward
America's Promise Alliance
AppleTree Institute for Education Innovation
Bard College, Bard Early Colleges
Bay Path University
Bottom Line
Cascade Philanthropy Advisors
Center for the Social Organization of
Schools, Johns Hopkins University
Chiefs for Change
Citizen Schools
City Year
College Forward
College Possible
Community Training and Assistance Center
(CTAC)
Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH)
Deans for Impact
Democracy Builders
Dibble Institute
Diverse Charter Schools Coalition
EDGE Consulting LLC
Education & Outreach Group, Sonoma
State University
Education Analytics
Education Northwest
Efficacy, LLC
Eye to Eye National
Farmingdale State College SUNY
Friends of the Children
Goodwill Industries International
Green & Healthy Homes Initiative
Green Dot Public Schools
GreenLight Fund
IDEA Public Schools
iMentor
Institute for Child Success
Jobs for the Future
JVS-Boston
Knowledge Alliance
KnowledgeWorks
Literacy Design Collaborative
Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC)
Marzano Research
Maycomb Capital
McREL International
Millionair Club Charity
National Forum to Accelerate Middle-
Grades Reform
National Prevention Science Coalition to
Improve Lives
New Classrooms Innovation Partners

New Leaders
New Profit, Inc.
Nonprofit Finance Fund
Nurse-Family Partnership
PACE Center for Girls
Programs for Academic Student Support at
Texas A&M University-Commerce
Project Evident
Quantified Ventures
Research Institute for Key Indicators LLC
Research-Aligned Mentorship Program at
Farmingdale State College SUNY
Results for America
RMC Research
Root Cause
SCORE
Service Year Alliance
Social Finance
Sorenson Impact Center
Success for All Foundation
Teach For America
The Policy & Research Group
Third Sector Capital Partners, Inc.
Third Way
uAspire
University System of Maryland
University of Virginia Pay for Success Lab
Wake Technical Community College
Year Up

Doug Harris, Professor of Economics,
Tulane University
Christine Mahoney, Director of Social
Entrepreneurship, and Professor of
Public Policy & Politics, University of
Virginia
Terry Mills, Assistant Provost for Student
Success, John Carroll University
Robert Pianta, Dean, Curry School of
Education, University of Virginia
Matt Segneri, Director, Harvard Business
School Social Enterprise Initiative
Kathy Stack, Former Deputy Associate
Director for Education, Income
Maintenance, and Labor, U.S. Office of
Management and Budget
Martin R. West, Professor of Education,
Harvard University
Diane Whitmore Schanzenbach, Director,
Institute for Policy Research,
Northwestern University, and former
Director, The Hamilton Project,
Brookings Institution

