

Update on the Student Response to CARES Act

July 1, 2020

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate

Dear Leader McConnell and Leader Schumer,

On behalf of students across the country, I write to express our strong support for the inclusion of policy supporting students in any upcoming stimulus package to combat the effects of Covid-19.

As the effects of the Coronavirus have rippled across the economy, Congress spent trillions of dollars to support businesses, front line workers, and young people struggling to adapt during these times. The results speak for themselves. Money spent under the CARES Act is expected to [mitigate](#) negative economic consequences of the virus, reducing poverty to pre-crisis levels.

Of those Americans who did not receive emergency cash payments under the CARES Act, one third of those excluded were 17- to 24-year-old dependents, most of whom are [students](#). This exclusion of dependents over the age of 16 has resulted in 10 million 17- to 24-year-olds left out of the full emergency cash payment. On May 11th, student leaders representing millions of students across the country signed on to the [Student Response to CARES Act](#) calling on Congressional leadership to take action. Since then, campus to campus, [13%](#) of students have delayed graduation, while [40%](#) lost a job, internship, or a job offer. Furthermore, hidden and [indirect costs](#) arising this fall semester will undoubtedly cause many students to further evaluate their educational plans.

Higher education serves as a strong [driver](#) of economic growth for our country. Those that attend college are [twice as likely](#) to own a small business than those with a high school education or less. As colleges propose a variety of plans for fall 2020, students face difficult decisions while they continue to bear the direct and indirect costs of their education. Simply put, an investment in students now will pave a path forward for a stronger, healthier economy. [Please find our policy recommendation below.](#)

Student Recovery Benefit:

Include eligible dependents above the age of 17 with economic impact payments in future economic relief bills.

We look forward to continuing to work with your offices to extend support to students, a critical step in maintaining commitment to higher education and ensuring resilience as our country and economy reopen.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Collin Kane". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a small loop at the end of the last name.

Collin N. Kane

Director of Federal Relations, Cornell Office of Student Government Relations