



September 10, 2024

The Honorable Virginia Foxx
Chairwoman
Committee on Education and the Workforce
2176 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Bobby Scott
Ranking Member
Committee on Education and the Workforce
2101 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Foxx and Ranking Member Scott:

On behalf of the higher education associations listed below, I write offering our thoughts on H.R.5646, the Stop Campus Hazing Act. We appreciate the Committee's efforts to assist campuses in addressing this important issue, and we appreciate the Committee's willingness to engage with stakeholders in crafting this legislation.

Colleges and universities are firmly committed to creating and maintaining safe learning environments that enable all students on their campuses to thrive. Given this, institutions of higher education are opposed to all forms of hazing and implement an array of preventative programming to educate students about the risks of hazing and policies to appropriately respond to incidents of hazing. Hazing has no place on college campuses. Additionally, nearly every state already has some form of an anti-hazing law. As a result, we support the overarching purpose of the Stop Campus Hazing Act.

Given that there was only a short period of time in which to review the latest version of the bill before it is marked up, it is difficult to fully assess how the components of the bill would impact colleges and universities, including as it relates to many institutions' existing obligations under state law. We appreciate that the bill has undergone some helpful changes since its introduction, although we believe the bill should be further strengthened with clearer and narrower definitions in some instances. For those reasons, we ask the Committee to continue working with the higher education community throughout the legislative process to make necessary improvements to ensure this legislation meets our shared goal of eradicating hazing on campus.

We thank the Committee for its efforts to address this vital topic and look forward to continuing to serve as a resource.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ted Mitchell". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly stylized font.

Ted Mitchell, President

H.R.5646, the Stop Campus Hazing Act
September 10, 2024

On behalf of:

American Association of State Colleges and Universities
American Council on Education
Association of Public and Land-grant Universities
National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities