

AMHERST COLLEGE
BAYLOR COLLEGE OF MEDICINE
BERRY COLLEGE
BOWDOIN COLLEGE
BROWN UNIVERSITY
BRYN MAWR COLLEGE
CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
CLAREMONT MCKENNA COLLEGE
COLBY COLLEGE
COLORADO COLLEGE
THE COOPER UNION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE AND ART
CORNELL UNIVERSITY
DARTMOUTH COLLEGE
DENISON UNIVERSITY
DEPAUW UNIVERSITY
DUKE UNIVERSITY
EMORY UNIVERSITY
FRANKLIN AND MARSHALL COLLEGE
GRINNELL COLLEGE
HAMILTON COLLEGE
HARVARD UNIVERSITY
HAVERFORD COLLEGE
ICAHN SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AT MOUNT SINAI
JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY
THE JUILLIARD SCHOOL
MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
MEDICAL COLLEGE OF WISCONSIN
MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE
NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY
POMONA COLLEGE
PRINCETON UNIVERSITY
PRINCETON THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
RICE UNIVERSITY
SMITH COLLEGE
STANFORD UNIVERSITY
SWARTHMORE COLLEGE
TRINITY UNIVERSITY
UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA
UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME
UNIVERSITY OF RICHMOND
VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY
VASSAR COLLEGE
WABASH COLLEGE
WASHINGTON AND LEE UNIVERSITY
WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY IN ST. LOUIS
WELLESLEY COLLEGE
WILLIAMS COLLEGE
YALE UNIVERSITY

March 7, 2018

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles Schumer
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Orrin Hatch
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Ron Wyden
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Paul Ryan
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin Brady
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Richard Neal
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Speaker, Leaders McConnell, Schumer, and Pelosi, Chairmen Hatch and Brady, and Ranking Members Wyden and Neal:

We write together to express our deep objections to Section 4968 of P.L. 115-97, the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, which will impose an unprecedented and damaging tax on the charitable resources at our and other American colleges and universities. We urge Congress to repeal or amend the tax to preserve resources that support students, teaching, and research.

We serve as presidents and chancellors of diverse higher education institutions – medical schools, research universities, women’s colleges, liberal arts and performing arts colleges, among others – which represent a range of academic fields and research interests. Nonetheless, we share a dedication to excellence in education and developing talent, as well as a commitment to affordability for students from all backgrounds, and a responsibility to serve our communities and the country.

The net investment income tax will impede our efforts to help students, improve education, expand the boundaries of knowledge, advance technological innovation, and enhance health and well-being. Each year we spend funds from our endowments to support this critical work. Endowments are not kept in reserve to be drawn on only occasionally or on a rainy day. In fact, across our institutions, endowments support a significant and growing portion of our operations; for many, endowments provide almost half of annual revenues.


Students are the leading beneficiary of these resources with each of us committed to significant efforts to enhance affordability. Yet this tax will not address the cost of college or student indebtedness, as some have tried to suggest. Instead, it will constrain the resources available to the very institutions that lead the nation in reducing, if not eliminating, the costs for low- and middle-income students, and will impede the efforts of other institutions striving to grow their endowments for this very purpose.

At the same time, the new tax establishes a precedent that threatens all charities. This is not simply an extension of policy from private foundations to colleges and universities. Colleges and universities are entirely unlike those private foundations that are subject to an investment income tax. Only non-operating foundations – which carry out their missions mainly through grant making – are required to pay an excise tax. Where foundations have their own operations, like an art museum or library, they are exempt from taxation. Colleges and universities, by definition and like other public charities, have significant operations, and that is to the benefit of us all.

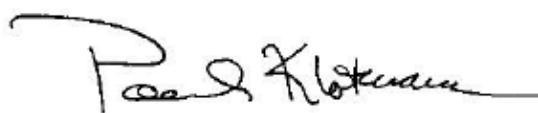
Taxing college and university resources will reduce not just these resources, but also the impact of our institutions, and the impact of our students. We will each have less to give in aid, less for research and less to support public engagement in the lives of our communities.

We urge you to revisit this misguided policy in the near term and look forward to working with you to advance the goals of access, affordability and success for students across the country.

Sincerely,



Biddy Martin
President
Amherst College



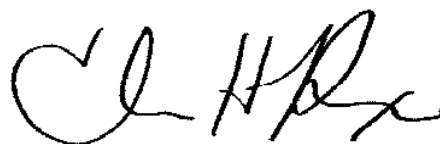
Paul Klotman
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President
Berry College



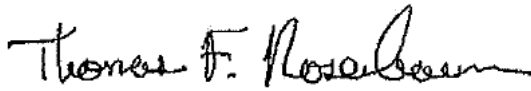
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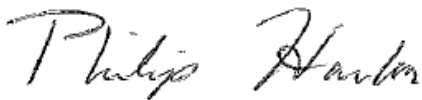
Jill Tiefenthaler
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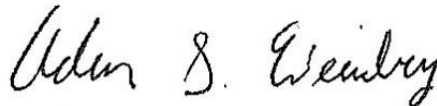
Laura Sparks
President
The Cooper Union for the
Advancement of Science and Art



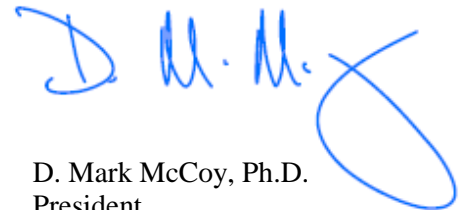
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Dartmouth College



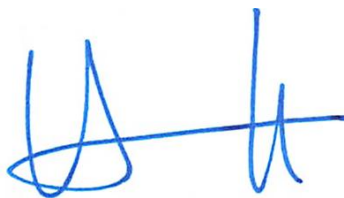
Adam S. Weinberg
President
Denison University



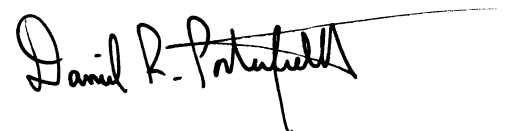
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