

Senator Jerry Moran
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Tom Carper
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

September 13, 2024

Dear Senator Moran and Senator Carper:

Thank you for your commitment to student parents and for leading the efforts to make September 2024 the fourth annual “National Student Parent Month.” The undersigned 50 organizations and student parent advocates are thrilled to join you in celebrating the recognitions and achievements of student parents across the country this month.

Parenting students continue to make up almost a [quarter](#) of the undergraduate student population — almost 4 million students. Additionally, 37% of Black women, 27% of American Indian/Alaska Native women, 19% of Hispanic women, and 7% of Asian/Pacific Islander women in college are [single parents](#). Furthermore, [6 in 10](#) parenting students work over 30 hours per week combined with going to school, studying, and caring for their children.

Parenting students are uniquely motivated to succeed in higher education, despite facing many challenges. In fact, student parents tend to have higher grade point averages than their non-parenting peers. But, due to structural barriers and lack of support, they are [10 times](#) less likely than students without children to complete a bachelor’s degree within five years. It is only by changing how the system serves this critical population that their likelihood of attaining a degree can increase.

Raising awareness about this population is critical to understanding their experiences and paving a smoother path for their postsecondary success. We are grateful for your commitment to supporting and celebrating student parents through the passage of the National Student Parent Month resolution and we look forward to continuing to work with you to support student parents.

Sincerely,

Today's Student Coalition

#StudentParentJoy

Ascend at the Aspen Institute

Association of Community College Trustees

Brightpoint Community College

Buckner Children and Family Services

Brightpoint Community College
California Competes
Campaign for College Opportunity
Center for Higher Education Policy and Practice
Community Foundation of Sarasota County
Council for Adult and Experiential Learning
Family Resource Center, UCI
Generation Hope
Imaginable Futures Services, LLC
Inside Track
Institute for Higher Education Policy
Institute for Women's Policy Research
Jeremiah Program
Jobs for the Future
John Burton Advocates for Youth
LeadMN
LIFT, Inc
NASPA - Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education
National Head Start Association
National Skills Coalition
National Women's Law Center
New America Higher Education Program
One Family
Project Self-Sufficiency

Self-Sufficiency Program, UW-La Crosse
State Higher Education Executive Officers Association
Student Parent HELP Center University of Minnesota
Student Veterans of America
The Education Trust
The Hope Center for College, Community, and Justice
The Institute for College Access & Success (TICAS)
UAspire
University of Hawaii Bridge to Hope
University of Hawaii at Manoa Student Parents
UPCEA
Won't She Do It

Individual Names

Nicole Alkire
Jazmin Chagolla
Lesley Del Rio
Ja'Bette Lozupone
Karlee Knuth
Courtney Moore
Kristen Roe
Kimberly Wickstrom