



National Council of Higher Education Resources



October 19, 2026

The Honorable Susie Lee
U.S. House of Representatives
365 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Juan Ciscomani
U.S. House of Representatives
461 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Greg Stanton
U.S. House of Representatives
207 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable David Valadao
U.S. House of Representatives
2465 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representatives Lee, Ciscomani, Stanton, and Valadao,

The National Council of Higher Education Resources (NCHER) is proud to endorse H.R. 10097, the *Earn to Learn Act*. Your bipartisan legislation establishing a matched savings demonstration grant program to help low-income students save for and complete postsecondary education is a laudable federal reform to make college more affordable.

NCHER members are dedicated to helping families achieve their postsecondary education goals and pursue rewarding careers. Our members take a holistic approach to student success. They raise students' awareness of their postsecondary options, operate scholarship and grant programs to promote college access, deliver loan assistance to encourage program completion, and guide families toward long-term financial security through the specialized support services they need. The *Earn to Learn Act* advances NCHER members' goal of helping students affordably navigate higher education without relying on unsustainable demands on taxpayers' funding.

The bill's strength lies in how it aligns public- and private-sector incentives around a shared objective: student access to and completion of postsecondary education. Eligible states and nonprofit organizations must secure non-federal matching funds at a 1:1 ratio, drawing public and private partners into a common investment in students. Federal grants are capped at the lesser of the committed non-federal match or \$10 million, so every federal dollar leverages outside support. Grantees build statewide networks of participating institutions and commit to support selected students through graduation. This design is not just another attempt at throwing money at a problem. Instead, it creates a shared responsibility framework in which stakeholders work together toward successful outcomes.

The legislation also gives students a meaningful stake in their success. Students complete a prerequisite personal finance training program and contribute their own savings, which are then matched at a rate of \$8 for each dollar deposited after an initial \$100 deposit. Importantly, these deposits and matching funds are not counted in determining eligibility for federal student aid, including the Pell Grant, so participation does not penalize students who save. Shared

responsibility works best when students have both a stake in their outcomes and a realistic opportunity to achieve them. The bill strikes this perfect balance. It accounts for delayed attendance, illness, and other extenuating circumstances, and it allows students to recover their own contributions if their plans change.

Financial resources alone, however, do not resolve every barrier students face. The *Earn to Learn Act* recognizes this reality by building wraparound support services into the program's design. It requires grantees to deliver financial literacy education through a Success Coaching Model that includes financial capability training, postsecondary readiness mentoring, and workforce readiness skills such as interviewing and resume development. A Financial Capability Training Platform equips students to navigate loans, budgeting, credit, and savings. These wraparound supports complement the savings match and strengthen the connection between access and completion. These requirements also equip students to make informed financial decisions well beyond graduation.

The bill's thoughtful approach reflects the principles NCHER and its members value most. We support affordable and sustainable financing mechanisms that help students enter college, persist through challenges, complete their programs, and move into meaningful careers. The *Earn to Learn Act* connects financing, student commitment, and support in a way that advances affordability across the entire educational journey. Its demonstration structure, annual reporting, and report to Congress will also build the evidence base policymakers need to determine whether a permanent program should follow.

NCHER enthusiastically endorses H.R. 10097 and looks forward to working with you and your colleagues to advance it. Please let us know how we can assist you in the weeks and months ahead.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alex Ricci", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Alexander M. Ricci
President