



Office of the President  
364 Henry Administration Building  
506 South Wright Street  
Urbana, IL 61801-3689

March 23, 2020

Dear Member of the Illinois Congressional Delegation:

We write to urge you to ensure that the emergency coronavirus legislation currently being drafted in Congress includes essential relief for Illinois' public institutions and students.

As we work to protect the health, livelihoods and educations of our students, faculty and staff, the University of Illinois System is facing significant costs and unprecedented burdens. Those immediate costs include an estimated \$35 million in refunds for housing and dining payments to U of I System students who are going to continue their studies from home; ongoing expenses associated with transitioning to online education and telework; and millions of dollars in lost revenues from cancelled events. In addition, we estimate that the U of I System will expend approximately \$96 million complying with the paid FMLA expansion in H.R. 6201, the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA), and another \$54 million complying with the paid sick leave requirements in that legislation.

Accordingly, we respectfully ask that you advocate for the following relief:

- Emergency funding both to financially stabilize universities as they respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, and to directly support students. While we are pleased that the draft bill released by Senate Majority Leader McConnell includes an Education Stabilization Fund, it only provides \$6 billion for higher education institutions and students—far less than the tens of billions of dollars that are urgently needed—and includes a potentially cumbersome model for disbursing the funds.
- Making public universities eligible for the refundable tax credits that the FFCRA provided for private employers to offset costs associated with paid sick leave/FMLA expansion.
- Assistance for academic health centers such as UI Health, including direct payments to hospitals to support care delivery, funds for preparedness support and emergency expenses, Medicaid and Medicare extenders including a delay in disproportionate share hospital (DSH) payments, and Medicaid/Medicare waiver flexibility.
- University access to capital through low- or no-interest loans.
- Regulatory flexibility and resources on research issues, as outlined in this [letter](#).

Further information on these issues can be found in this [memo](#) from the American Council on Education, the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities and other leading higher education associations.

Thank you for your efforts to respond to the pandemic and to ensure that U of I System and our students have the federal support that they need at this challenging time.

Sincerely,

Tim Killeen, President, University of Illinois System

Barb Wilson, Executive Vice President and VP for Academic Affairs, University of Illinois System

Robert J. Jones, Chancellor, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Michael D. Amiridis, Chancellor, University of Illinois at Chicago

Susan J. Koch, Chancellor, University of Illinois at Springfield