



## Campus Compact

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October 14, 2019

The Honorable Suzanne Bonamici  
United States House of Representatives  
2231 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Bonamici:

We, the members of the Board of Directors of Campus Compact, write to express our strong support for the continuation, in the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act, of the community service component of the Federal Work Study program, including the eligibility of community service placements for a lower institutional cost share. The program as it stands contributes mightily to communities across the country, enables students to build skills that will serve them well in the job market, and prepares students to be contributors throughout their lives to the communities in which they live.

Campus Compact is a non-profit coalition of nearly 1000 colleges and universities from all sectors of higher education—public, private, faith-based, two-year, four-year—committed to the public purposes of higher education. Our central focus is on preparing students for lives of engaged participation in their communities and our democracy. The Community Service Set Aside in the Higher Education Act is a valuable tool in advancing our goals for student civic learning and for the contribution of colleges and universities to communities.

The Higher Education Act requires that a minimum of seven percent of Federal Work Study funds for each institution be dedicated to positions that engage students in community service activities (20 U.S.C. 1087-53). Community service positions, under the Act, are subsidized at a rate up to 90%, providing an incentive for institutions to meet and exceed the requirement and enabling community-based non-profits to participate. In addition, the Act prioritizes positions related to K-12 education, such as tutoring, thereby advancing broader educational goals and providing a pathway for a diverse range of college students into the teaching profession. According to the most recent available data, the Community Service Set Aside contributes \$190 million worth of important public service each year into communities across the United States.

Our surveys of member colleges and universities have consistently shown that institutions routinely exceed the seven percent minimum, indicating that with the higher level of subsidy, the Community Service Set Aside is easily achievable.

Colleges and universities—whether public or private—have an obligation to prepare their students for lives of contribution to the public good while leveraging their resources for the benefit of communities. For decades, the Federal Work Study Community Service Set Aside has enabled an effective partnership between the federal government and institutions of higher education to pursue those goals, all while helping students develop as future professionals. We strongly advocate for the continuation—if not the expansion—of the Community Service Set Aside.

Sincerely,  
The Members of the Board of Directors of Campus Compact