

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 4, 2022

The Honorable Merrick Garland
Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
Office of the Attorney General
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Attorney General Garland:

We write regarding the alarming threats of violence made against more than one dozen Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and to urge you to use every available resource to bring those responsible to justice.

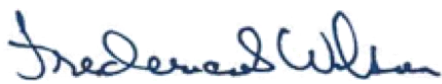
As members of Congress who oversee higher education issues, including campus safety and climate, we are particularly concerned for the physical and mental wellbeing of HBCU students and their broader campus communities. While, at this time, no physical violence has been reported, the threats themselves have terrorized the predominantly Black students, faculty, and staff at these historic institutions. HBCUs have a long history of being the targets of racially motivated violence and intimidation, which too often have not garnered the appropriate level of attention.

It is disturbing that these coordinated threats have occurred leading up to the start of Black History Month. HBCUs have produced many of the prominent Black leaders and innovators that are celebrated every February and have long been a safe haven for students who historically were either not welcomed at other institutions or faced great barriers to admittance. To honor this legacy, it is essential that HBCU students feel safe on their campuses and the perpetrators of these hate crimes be swiftly apprehended.

We ask that you utilize the full force of the federal government to thoroughly investigate these acts of intimidation and that you remain in regular communication with HBCU leaders and Members of Congress regarding any credible threats. Students, faculty, staff, and their families deserve timely and accurate information about their safety and ongoing law enforcement efforts.

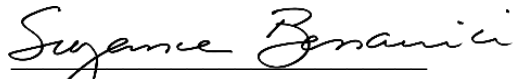
We thank you for your attention to this matter and look forward to hearing more about your efforts to keep these campuses safe.

Sincerely,



FREDERICA S. WILSON

Chairwoman
Higher Education and Workforce Investment Subcommittee,
House Committee on Education and Labor



SUZANNE BONAMICI

Member of Congress



JAMAAL BOWMAN, Ed.D.

Member of Congress



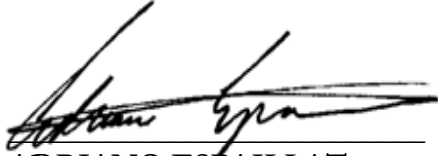
JOAQUIN CASTRO

Member of Congress



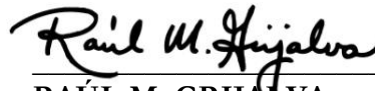
JOE COURTNEY

Member of Congress



ADRIANO ESPAILLAT

Member of Congress



RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

Member of Congress



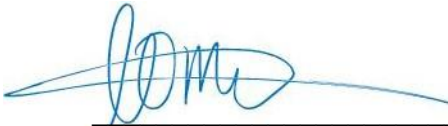
PRAMILA JAYAPAL

Member of Congress



MONDAIRE JONES

Member of Congress



ILHAN OMAR

Member of Congress



MARK POCAN

Member of Congress

Cc: The Honorable Miguel Cardona, U.S. Secretary of Education