June 13, 2024

Dear Colleague,

Congress is proposing punitive new legislation that will disproportionately affect our sector and the Administration has rolled out some of the most costly and burdensome regulatory requirements we have seen in decades. Together, these actions are placing an untenable burden on colleges and universities.

As part of our annual Home & Away advocacy efforts, I am writing to ask you to make plans now to engage your elected officials during the upcoming summer congressional recesses by inviting your Senators and Representative to campus or by meeting them in their District offices. The Home & Away series is NAICU’s traditional effort to have you advocate “at home” during the summer congressional recesses and “away” during our February Annual Meeting and Advocacy Day in Washington.

NAICU has identified four key priority issue areas (the FAFSA delay, regulatory burdens, student aid funding, and institutional risk-sharing and the College Cost Reduction Act) that we’d like for you to discuss with your Members of Congress and have created talking points for each to help with those conversations. Depending on the time you have with your elected officials, please tailor your message(s) to the needs of your students and campus community.

The summer recess schedule for the two chambers is as follows:

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<th>Chamber</th>
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<tr>
<td>House of Representatives</td>
<td>July 1-5</td>
<td>August 2-September 6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Senate</td>
<td>June 24-July 5</td>
<td>August 5-September 6</td>
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Informing your elected officials about the collective impact these issues will have on your students and campus is a critical step in helping delay or preventing the establishment of these policies.

Many, if not all, of these issues pose significant risks to NAICU institutions. I urge you to take advantage of having your Members of Congress back home and meet with them as concerned constituents and major employers. These upcoming summer months are a critically important time to voice your concerns with your elected officials.

Regards,

Barbara

Barbara K. Mistick, D.B.A.
President
National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities