



U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Ave SW
Washington, DC, 20024

February 17th, 2022

To: U.S. Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona
Cc: White House Domestic Policy Council Chair Ambassador Susan E. Rice; U.S. Undersecretary of Education James Kvaal
Re: Supporting Students & Staff at Historically Black Colleges & Universities

Dear Secretary Cardona,

Since the start of Black History Month, Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) nationwide have come under attack from dangerous white supremacist threats of violence. As a result, several HBCUs have pivoted to remote learning to avoid putting students and staff at greater risk. Although the Biden administration has acknowledged the FBI's law enforcement investigation, the support for HBCUs and their students has been inadequate to date. On behalf of Rise and the undersigned HBCU students and student groups, we call on the Biden Administration to immediately deploy Project SERV grants and other funding resources to help HBCUs better support their students during this difficult time. Specifically, HBCUs need additional resources to provide:

- ☐ Emergency counseling and psychological support to students who have had their lives threatened simply for attending HBCUs.
- ☐ Additional security and campus safety measures to protect students, staff and campuses from bomb threats and other racist violence.
- ☐ Support for students who have transitioned into remote learning environments to maximize their educational opportunities while away from campus.
- ☐ Funding to restore safe and vibrant campus environments for students in the aftermath of bomb threats through campus programming and student activities funds.

White supremacist threats to HBCU students are more reminiscent of the 1950s and 1960s than what students should have to expect in 2021. While racism seeks to derail Black students, we expect the Biden Administration to immediately offer resources that protect HBCU students and their campuses and allow them to return to a sense of safety and normalcy. The FBI and law enforcement agencies must bring the perpetrators of these crimes to justice, but law enforcement



is not a sufficient solution to white supremacist violence. HBCUs also need additional funding to support their students in this difficult time, and should not have to draw from already inequitable resources to do so. The Biden administration must step up and take a leadership role in providing these resources for HBCU students and staff to get back on track as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

The Undersigned Students and Student Organizations Affiliated With Historically Black Colleges and Universities:

1. Mary-Pat Hector, Rise Georgia, Spelman College
2. Ariyana Griffin, Full Circle, Clark Atlanta University
3. Lauren Nicks, National Action Network, Spelman College
4. Susanna Major, NAACP, Spelman College
5. Jaidan Tate, Grl Pwr, Spelman College
6. Cecil Price, III, National Action Network, Morehouse College
7. Alexis Brooks, Environmental Task Force, Spelman College
8. Kashari Henry, Afrekete, Spelman College
9. Kaleb Howard, Individual Signer, Morehouse College
10. Christina Williams, CAU Votes, Clark Atlanta University
11. Janiah Henry, CAU Votes, Clark Atlanta University
12. Joshua Clements, Rise, Florida A&M University
13. Mayah Williams, Roots of Royalty, Allen State University
14. Diamond Mercer, National Society of Collegiate Scholars, Jackson State University
15. Alexandria Williams, Girl's Coalition, Alcorn State University
16. Jared Sawyer Jr., HBCU Green Fund, Morehouse College
17. Lyndon Waller, Georgia Coalition for the People's Agenda
18. Sarena Straughter, Revolt, Inc., Howard University
19. Jaliyah Roberts, Transfer Student Association, Florida A&M University
20. Marian Harriel, Florida Black Youth Vote!, Florida A&M University
21. Alisia Hansel, Florida Black Youth Vote! Florida A&M University
22. Deondre Walker, Florida A&M University
23. Black Youth Vote! Clark Atlanta University
24. Black Youth Vote! Fort Valley State University
25. Black Youth Vote! Albany State University
26. Black Youth Vote! Spelman College
27. Black Youth Vote! Morehouse College