



October 14, 2019

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader  
U.S. Senate

The Honorable Chuck Schumer  
Minority Leader  
U.S. Senate

The Honorable Lamar Alexander  
Chair  
U.S. Senate HELP Committee

The Honorable Patty Murray  
Ranking Member  
U.S. Senate HELP Committee

**RE: Title III Part-F Funding to HBCUs and MSIs**

Dear Senators:

We are sincerely disappointed that the Senate did not pass the FUTURE Act prior to the September 30th deadline to prevent the Title III Part-F program from expiring.

While it is true that Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) are funded through the academic school year ending in April 2020, the expiration of this program as set forth in the plain language of 20 U.S.C. § 1067q, means that no more grants will be made available to HBCUs going forward and, as such, our institutions will be without the ability to preserve the status quo as it relates to the student programs and jobs supported by this funding.

In fact, the expiration of this program is already having real consequences on the campuses of the publicly-supported HBCUs that we represent. Despite having expired only two weeks ago, we already have examples of campuses notifying employees that their positions and programs will be terminated as of September 30, 2020, if not sooner. These are real jobs, held by people who interact with students everyday, in programs that play a critical role in graduating and retaining students in the STEM fields, among other disciplines. The longer we wait to give certainty to these universities, the more institutions will be left with no choice but to begin winding-down programs that materially benefit students and employees alike, and strip away the institutional knowledge bases that our schools have built over time with the support of Title III, Part F.

While we welcome a potential long-term or “permanent” solution to Title III, Part F, what we are hearing from our campuses is clear - they simply do not have the time to wait for Congress

to work out a deal, particularly on bills that have an uncertain future in both houses of Congress. Therefore, the Thurgood Marshall College Fund (TMCf) strongly encourages the Senate to finally take-up the House-passed, bi-partisan and bi-cameral FUTURE Act immediately and pass the bill before permanent damage is done to our campuses. This course of action is the cleanest and most expedient way to provide immediate certainty to our nation's HBCUs and MSIs.

Following the Senate's passage of FUTURE Act, TMCf looks forward to working with leaders on both sides of the aisle to develop a longer-term solution for Title III, Part F, and for other HEA-related issues in a broader bill like the Student Aid Improvement Act or a comprehensive HEA reauthorization that includes the permanent extension of Title III, Part F funds.

Sincerely,



Dr. Harry L. Williams  
President & CEO

CC: The Honorable Betsy DeVos, Secretary of Education  
The Honorable Tim Scott, U.S. Senate  
The Honorable Doug Jones, U.S. Senate