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Your Nebraska financial aid professionals: Advocating for students and facilitating dialogue for how best to distribute financial resources for students pursuing higher education in the State of Nebraska.

November 16, 2021

The Honorable Deb Fischer
United States Senate
454 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
Via fax: 202-228-1325
Eduardo_sacasa@fischer.senate.gov

Dear Senator Fischer:

The Nebraska Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (NeASFAA) is an organization of professional financial aid administrators committed to providing financial aid and support to students. One of our core missions is to encourage the implementation of programs that will positively impact our students' ability to pay for higher education.

On behalf of the membership of NeASFAA, we want to extend gratitude to you for your continued support of Nebraska students in their pursuit of a postsecondary education and Nebraska colleges and universities through the COVID-19 emergency by providing relief funding through the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF). During the pandemic and subsequent recovery, 36 Nebraska colleges and universities have received a total of \$407,449,246 in emergency relief funds and have been able to distribute \$185,882,573 of the allocated funds directly to students. The student portion of the funds were critical to Nebraska students as many found themselves unemployed or experiencing pandemic-related hardships. HEERF funds acted as a lifeline to these students and in many cases were the reason students were able to maintain enrollment during this unprecedented challenge.

For Nebraska colleges and universities, HEERF dollars played a critical role in ensuring our institutions had sufficient resources to cover pandemic-related expenses and the cost of safely reopening. Here are a few examples of how Nebraska institutions relied on HEERF funding throughout the pandemic:

- Mitigating the spread of COVID-19 and reopening safely
- Expansion of remote coursework
- Enhanced student support services
- Providing additional emergency grants to students

HEERF made a demonstrable impact in protecting higher education access and opportunity in Nebraska. We are sincerely grateful to Congress for providing this lifeline without which the challenges brought by the pandemic would have incredibly more difficult to overcome. Thank you. We invite you to contact NeASFAA should you have any questions or would like to know more about how these relief funds have benefited institutions and students in Nebraska.

Sincerely,



Justin Chase Brown
President, Nebraska Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (NeASFAA)
president@neasfaa.org

