



*The Commission on*  
**INDEPENDENT**  
*Colleges & Universities*  
*in New York*

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## Office of the President

September 12, 2019

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Minority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Bobby Scott  
Chairman  
Committee on Education and Labor  
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Virginia Foxx  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Education and Labor  
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Joseph D. Morelle  
New York's 25<sup>th</sup> District  
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Katie Hill  
California's 25<sup>th</sup> District  
U.S. House of Representatives

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Minority Leader McCarthy, Chairman Scott and Ranking Member Foxx, Congressman Morelle, and Congresswoman Hill:

On behalf of the 100+ private, not-for-profit colleges in New York State, I write to you today in support of the H.R. 4308 CAMPUS Act, sponsored by Representative's Morelle and Hill. This important piece of legislation would provide critical support for authorized institutions to give aid to students during emergency situations.

The Commission on Independent Colleges and Universities (CICU) is a voice for private, not-for-profit colleges across New York State. We educate almost 500,000 students annually. Two in every three students at private colleges in New York are from families that earn less than \$125,000 annually. Understanding this, our institutions provide nearly \$5.7 billion in financial aid to their students in order to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to succeed. Higher education is a pathway toward a better life, and an emergency financial situation should not derail a student's chances for success. Data demonstrate that those who borrow for their education but do not complete often have the most difficult time repaying their loans. This legislation would ensure that every student has the ability to graduate and to become productive members of their community.

I ask for your support on this crucial act and hope to see it passed. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

*Mary Beth Labate*

Mary Beth Labate

MBL:cb