Washington, DC 20510

June 4, 2019

Kim S. Phipps President Messiah College One College Avenue Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania 17055

Dear President Phipps:

Following reports indicating that the U.S. Department of Education ("the Department") is exploring a federal experiment with Income Share Agreements (ISAs) in federal higher education programs, we are writing to learn more about your institution's ISA program and any evaluations you have undertaken to determine whether these plans are in the best interest of students.<sup>1</sup>

We are concerned about ISAs because, like private student loans and many other types of debt, the terms of ISA contracts can be predatory and dangerous for students, and ISAs have received little federal oversight. ISAs carry many common pitfalls of traditional private student loans – with the added danger of opaque terms and conditions that allow deceptive rhetoric and marketing that can obscure their true nature. ISAs can also include some of the most exploitative terms in the private student loan industry, including mandatory arbitration agreements and class action bans.<sup>2</sup> Not to mention, given that most federal student loans are eligible for loan cancelation after 20 or 25 years, borrowers of ISA-structured loans can pay much more over the term of the loan than they would with a federal student loan.

- 1. Please provide a summary of your ISA program, including information on:
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  - c. A summary of the terms and conditions of the program.
- 2. Please provide a copy of all of your institution's ISA contracts with students.

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- 5. Does your ISA program have different terms and conditions for differing programs of study or other student characteristics? If so, please describe these differences.
  - a. If so, has your institution conducted any analysis of whether ISAs comply with federal civil rights and anti-discrimination laws, including the Equal Credit Opportunity Act, Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972, the Civil Rights Act of 1965, or any other relevant federal civil rights and anti-discrimination law? If so, please provide any relevant analysis.
- 6. Has your institution conducted any analysis of the program's benefit and risk to students? If so, please provide any analysis.
- 7. Please provide copies of all promotional materials targeted to students regarding the ISA program.
- 8. Has your institution had discussions or communications with the Department of Education regarding the use of federal programs to conduct experiments with ISAs? If so, please describe these communications, and provide a copy of any electronic communication, memoranda, or other document sent to or from Department officials or Department contractors.

Elizabeth Warren

United States Senator

Ayanna Pressley

Washington, DC 20510

June 4, 2019

Anthony G. Collins President Clarkson University 8 Clarkson Avenue Potsdam, New York 13699

#### Dear President Collins:

Following reports indicating that the U.S. Department of Education ("the Department") is exploring a federal experiment with Income Share Agreements (ISAs) in federal higher education programs, we are writing to learn more about your institution's ISA program and any evaluations you have undertaken to determine whether these plans are in the best interest of students.<sup>1</sup>

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Elizabeth Warren

United States Senator

Ayanna Pressley

Washington. DC 20510

June 4, 2019

Dr. Carrie Hauser President Colorado Mountain College 802 Grand Avenue Glenwood Springs, Colorado 81601

#### Dear President Hauser:

Following reports indicating that the U.S. Department of Education ("the Department") is exploring a federal experiment with Income Share Agreements (ISAs) in federal higher education programs, we are writing to learn more about your institution's ISA program and any evaluations you have undertaken to determine whether these plans are in the best interest of students.<sup>1</sup>

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Elizabeth Warren

United States Senator

Ayanna Pressley

Washington, DC 20510

June 4, 2019

Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr. President Purdue University 601 Purdue Mall Hovde Hall, Room 200 West Lafayette, Indiana 47907

#### Dear President Daniels:

Following reports indicating that the U.S. Department of Education ("the Department") is exploring a federal experiment with Income Share Agreements (ISAs) in federal higher education programs, we are writing to learn more about your institution's ISA program and any evaluations you have undertaken to determine whether these plans are in the best interest of students.<sup>1</sup>

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Elizabeth Warren

United States Senator

Ayanna Pressley

Washington, DC 20510

June 4, 2019

Ruth Watkins President University of Utah 201 Presidents Circle, Room 203 Salt Lake City, Utah 84112

Dear President Watkins:

Following reports indicating that the U.S. Department of Education ("the Department") is exploring a federal experiment with Income Share Agreements (ISAs) in federal higher education programs, we are writing to learn more about your institution's ISA program and any evaluations you have undertaken to determine whether these plans are in the best interest of students.<sup>1</sup>

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Elizabeth Warren

United States Senator

Ayanna Pressley

Washington, DC 20510

June 4, 2019

Mark Volk President Lackawanna College 51 Vine Street Scranton, Pennsylvania 18509

Dear President Volk:

Following reports indicating that the U.S. Department of Education ("the Department") is exploring a federal experiment with Income Share Agreements (ISAs) in federal higher education programs, we are writing to learn more about your institution's ISA program and any evaluations you have undertaken to determine whether these plans are in the best interest of students.<sup>1</sup>

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Elizabeth Warren

United States Senator

Ayanna Pressley

Washington, DC 20510

June 4, 2019

Pradeep Khosla Chancellor University of California, San Diego 9500 Gilman Drive La Jolla, California 92093

Dear Mr. Khosla:

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