



April 22, 2021

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Chairman
Senate Appropriations Committee
S-128 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Ranking Member
Senate Appropriations Committee
S-128 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Leahy and Ranking Member Shelby:

We write in strong support of robust funding in the FY 2022 federal appropriations bills for Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and other Minority-Serving Institutions (MSIs). As companies with valuable partnerships with HBCUs and MSIs, we know first-hand the impact these institutions have on students, our communities, and the broader economy.

The President has previously proposed a \$70 billion investment aimed at eliminating the disparities in funding faced by HBCUs. These proposals include grants to make higher education more affordable, 200 new centers of excellence in the job fields most critical to our nation's future, new research facilities and labs, and programs to increase enrollment, retention, completion and employment rates for students.

We strongly support these proposals and ask that you include this funding in your forthcoming FY 2022 appropriations bills. We also support efforts to at least double the maximum value of a federal Pell Grant. This would have the practical effect of increasing support for HBCUs and MSIs whose students, on average, most frequently qualify for these grants.

As leading technology companies, we believe that diversity is an essential driver of innovation and creativity. The valuable partnerships we have had with HBCUs and MSIs over the years have contributed to building the innovative workforce we desire, and our country needs in order to compete globally. We look forward to continuing and expanding on our partnerships with programs such as on-campus recruitment, digital learning, and other investments in these Institutions.

The Honorable Patrick Leahy and The Honorable Richard Shelby

April 22, 2021

Page 2

We appreciate your commitment to federal support for HBCUs, MSIs and related initiatives, and we urge you to support robust funding as you consider FY 2022 appropriations.

Sincerely,

Adobe Systems. Inc.

Atlassian

Autodesk, Inc.

BSA | The Software Alliance

DocuSign

IBM Corporation

Informatica

Intel Corporation

Microsoft Corporation

Okta

Oracle

Salesforce

ServiceNow

Siemens