

Senator Tammy Duckworth
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Jerry Moran
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

September 22, 2021

Dear Senator Duckworth and Senator Moran:

We are writing to thank you for your commitment to student parents and to congratulate you on the passage of S.Res. 362, National Student Parent Month, to designate September 2021 as the first annual “National Student Parent Month.” The undersigned organizations join in excitement and celebration of the recognitions and achievements of student parents across the country this month.

Over the course of the last three decades, the number of student parents pursuing post-secondary education has increased significantly. Student parents make up approximately [22 percent](#) of the undergraduate student population. [Seventy percent](#) of student parents are women, 47 percent of military-connected students are parents, and [43 percent](#) are students of color. This means nearly 4 million of today’s students are raising children in addition to earning their degrees or credentials.

Parenting students are uniquely motivated to succeed in higher education, despite being faced with many challenges, including lack of affordable child care, balancing work responsibilities and school work, and more. Especially during the COVID-19 pandemic, student parents have overcome often insurmountable challenges. On average, student parents have higher grade point averages than their non-parenting peers. But due to structural barriers and lack of support, they are [ten times](#) less likely than students without children to complete a bachelor’s degree within five years.

Again, we are grateful for your commitment to supporting and celebrating student parents through the passage of the National Student Parent Month resolution and we look forward to working with you to further support student parents.

Sincerely,

Advance Vermont
Ascend at the Aspen Institute
America Forward
Center for First-generation Student Success
COABE
Generation Hope
Healthy Teen Network
Higher Learning Advocates

Hope Center for College, Community, and Justice
Imaginable Futures
Institute for Higher Education Policy (IHEP)
Institute for Women's Policy Research
Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America
Jobs for the Future (JFF)
Los Angeles Valley College Family Resource Center
Monroe Community College
NASPA - Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education
National Military Family Association
National Organization for Women
New America Higher Education Program
Oregon State University
Project Self-Sufficiency
Student Veterans of America
Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors
uAspire
UCSB AS Commission on Disability Equality
UPCEA
Veterans Education Success
Women Employed
Young Invincibles