

May 28, 2025

The Honorable Jennifer McClellan
U.S. House of Representatives
2417 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative McClellan,

I am writing on behalf of Education Finance Council (EFC) to endorse the *Accessible Campus Commuting and Expanded Student Savings (ACCESS) Act*. EFC supports your proposal to include transportation and parking costs as qualified education expenses under a 529 savings plan. This bill will provide flexibility for students who might otherwise struggle to access and afford postsecondary education due to costly transportation expenses.

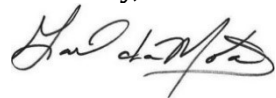
EFC is the national trade association representing nonprofit and state-based higher education finance organizations. EFC members increase postsecondary education access, success, and affordability by providing a wide range of free resources and services to millions of students and families every year. EFC members are driven by a public purpose mission to support students as they seek to grow their skills and improve their lives.

Both commuting students and students who live on campus rely on dependable transportation options – which can often pose a financial burden – when getting to and from educational activities, such as attending class. On average, full-time undergraduates living on-campus at public and private non-profit four-year institutions are responsible for \$1,340 and \$1,150 in transportation-related expenses for 2024-2025, respectively.¹

Congress has historically broadened the defined qualified higher education expenses as appropriate, and this commonsense policy will ensure that transportation is not a barrier to graduation. At a time when college costs continue to increase, students should be able to rely on reasonable flexibility to access, afford, and complete their education.

By passing the *ACCESS Act*, Congress will allow students to use their own savings towards a clear education-related purpose. This legislation makes a simple, but necessary, adjustment that will help students stay on track toward earning their degree or credential. EFC proudly endorses this legislation, and we look forward to collaborating with you to advance public policies that empower student success.

Sincerely,



Gail daMota
President