



EMORY
UNIVERSITY

The Honorable Hank Johnson
United States House of Representatives

November 28, 2017

Dear Representative Johnson,

On behalf of the Emory University Senate I would like to express our serious concerns about the treatment of higher education in the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. As the chief representative body of the faculty, staff, and students of all nine of Emory's schools and colleges, we wish to communicate our concerns about several provisions included in the House bill that will negatively impact many members of our community and higher education in general. We respectfully ask that you seek to make changes in the final conferenced version of this legislation.

We are deeply troubled about any attempt to repeal USC § 117(d) and § 127. Taxing the scholarships and educational assistance described in these sections would put higher education out of reach for many of our employees and their families.

Taxing tuition reductions would also negatively affect our graduate student body. Many students in our graduate and professional schools receive tuition waivers. If this tuition assistance becomes taxable income, graduate study will become unaffordable for many of our students. This in turn will decrease the number of graduates, especially PhDs in STEM fields, who would be qualified for employment in fields that contribute greatly to our state and enhance commerce and business in Georgia.

We have concerns about provisions that will drive down resources for student financial support and could result in tuition increases. The proposed excise tax on university endowments and the repeal of tax-exempt bond financing will leave Emory less money for scholarships. This will also reduce the availability of higher education for many students, including those from historically disadvantaged groups. These provisions will compromise our ability to attract talented undergraduate and graduate students. These outstanding students play an essential role in advancing our mission to create, preserve, teach, and apply knowledge in the service of humanity.

Other provisions that concern us would create hardships for many members of our community. Limiting deductions for high medical expenses and sunsetting dependent care flexible savings accounts will increase financial burdens for many Emory employees.

We strongly encourage you to advocate against the repeal of Sections 117(d) and 127, to oppose the excise tax on university endowments and the repeal of tax-exempt bond financing, and to object to the limitation of deductions for high medical expenses and the elimination of dependent care flexible savings accounts in the reconciled version of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act.

Thank you for your service for the people of Georgia. If I can answer any questions or provide any additional information, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

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