



EMORY
UNIVERSITY

The Honorable Johnny Isakson
United States Senate

November 28, 2017

Dear Senator Isakson,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Emory University Senate to express our sincere appreciation for your advocacy for Emory University and for all of higher education during the formulation of 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 are grateful for the role you have played in ensuring that the Senate version of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act does not affect 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 remaining in the Senate bill 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 sunseting dependent care flexible savings accounts will increase financial burdens for many Emory employees.

We strongly encourage you to continue 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 oppose 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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