March 13, 2023

The Honorable Tim Walberg  
House Committee on Education and The Workforce  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2266 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable James Lankford  
U.S. Senate  
316 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tim Scott  
U.S. Senate  
104 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Congressman Walberg, Senator Lankford, and Senator Scott:

The undersigned represent diverse beliefs regarding theology, but we agree on affirming the freedom of all students to meet on their public college campuses based upon their shared religious beliefs. The right to assemble together based on religiously informed beliefs is foundational to a free and truly pluralistic society. This right includes the ability to choose leaders who affirmatively support the distinctive religious messages and missions of their various groups.

Faith-based student organizations should not face discrimination on college campuses solely because they require their leaders to agree with their core religious beliefs. Basic religious freedom—and common sense—require that a religious group be permitted to require that its leaders agree with its religious message and mission. Unfortunately, on too many college campuses, religious student organizations are denied this essential freedom.

Because this problem is national in scope, a national solution is needed. If America is to continue to be a nation characterized by religious diversity, public university campuses must teach and model respect for diverse religious beliefs and practices.

The undersigned therefore support the language in the Equal Campus Access Act of 2023 because it will provide critical protection for faith-based student organizations of all religious traditions. The language will ensure that such groups will be allowed to meet on campuses nationwide, providing authentic faith communities where students can find belonging, and enabling them to freely discuss, live out and share their religious ideas and values.

Respectfully,

Mark Gauthier  
Vice President for North America and Oceania  
Cru
David Nammo
CEO and Executive Director
Christian Legal Society

His Eminence Timothy Cardinal Dolan
Archbishop of New York
Chairman, Committee for Religious Liberty
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

Gregory L. Jao
Executive Vice President – Communications & Mobilization
InterVarsity Christian Fellowship/USA

Howard Slugh
General Counsel
Jewish Coalition for Religious Liberty

Rev. Dennis H. Holtschneider, CM
President
Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities

Michael St. Pierre, Ed.D.
Executive Director
Catholic Campus Ministry Association (CCMA)

Rev. Dr. Walter Kim
President
National Association of Evangelicals

Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison
President
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

Rabbi Yaakov Menken
Managing Director
Coalition for Jewish Values

Ismail Royer
Director, Islam and Religious Freedom Action Team
Religious Freedom Institute

Melissa Reid
Director of Government Affairs
Seventh-day Adventist Church – North American Division
Brandon Worsham
Director
Fellowship of Christian University Students (FOCUS)

Sean McNamara
Chief Support Officer
Fellowship of Christian Athletes

Jeff Bennett
Executive Director
Kansas Family Voice

Chuck Hurley
VP and Chief Counsel
The FAMiLY Leader

P. George Tryfiates
Vice President for Public Policy & Legal Affairs
Association of Christian Schools International

Rev. N.J. L’Heureux, Jr.
Executive Director Emeritus
Queens Federation of Churches

Philip E. Dearborn, EdD
President
Association for Biblical Higher Education (ABHE)

Paul A. Long
President & CEO
Michigan Catholic Conference

Marvin G. Campbell
President and U.S. Director
U.S. Navigators

Paul W. Sherrill
Vice President and Corporate Secretary
Young Life

Craig L. Treptow, M.D.
President
Catholic Medical Association