

College for All Act

Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) and Rep. Pramila Jayapal (D-Wash.)

“In this country, we tell our students that college is really important, but then we don’t do enough to make it an affordable, accessible reality for anyone who wants to pursue it. That’s why AAUP and the AFT helped launch the New Deal for Higher Education this year. The College for All Act will address this problem, making college free for most students, incentivizing states to make their own investments in public higher education, supporting faculty, and focusing new resources on improving the educational experience of students,” **said Randi Weingarten, President of American Federation of Teachers.** “I thank Sen. Bernie Sanders, Rep. Pramila Jayapal and all the co-sponsors for introducing the College for All Act, and I look forward to working with Congress and the Biden administration to truly make real the promise of higher education for all who want it.”

“Successful transition into adulthood is an essential measure of well-being for children and youth,” **said Rev. Dr. Starsky Wilson, President & CEO, Children’s Defense Fund.** “With 6 in 10 American jobs requiring some education beyond high school, our children will not thrive without these doors being open wide. Children’s Defense Fund is pleased to support the College for All Act of 2021 to make economic mobility accessible for all children and families.”

“Education and training are critical to economic mobility. Unfortunately, in recent decades, we’ve seen the associated costs skyrocket, putting these essential tools outside the reach of many working class Americans trying to get ahead,” **said Everett B. Kelley, National President, American Federation of Government Employees.** “AFGE is proud to endorse this proposal by Sen. Sanders to address this issue and make public colleges and trade schools tuition and debt-free for working families. Making education and skills training more affordable will not only help working class Americans, it will help us all build a stronger, more resilient economy.”

“The College for All Act goes a long way to addressing the systemic inequality that characterizes both everyday life in the U.S. and our system of higher education,” **said John Jepsen, President, UE Local 896/COGS.** “Cost is the greatest barrier to higher education, and this creates a two-tier society: those who can afford the expensive education required to access earning power, political power and status, and everyone else. The College for All Act will address this unequal access that defines higher education in the United States.”

“The skyrocketing cost of college is preventing workers and our families from pursuing our dreams,” **said Sara Nelson, international president of the Association of Flight Attendants-CWA.** “The College for All Act would be transformative for our country, opening pathways to opportunity for millions of aspiring students, including Flight Attendants and our families. We strongly support this bill, and encourage the Biden administration to fight for it and to forgive the existing student debt that’s an anchor around the necks of millions of workers and holding back our economy.”

Endorsements

2021 endorsements:

Unions:

American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE)
American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME)
American Federation of Teachers (AFT)
Association of Flight Attendants-CWA (AFA-CWA)
National Education Association (NEA)
Service Employees International Union (SEIU)
United Electrical, Radio & Machine Workers of America (UE)
United Farm Workers (UFW)

National groups:

Action Center on Race and the Economy
Alliance for Youth Action
American Association of University Professors
American Friends Service Committee
Badass Teachers Association
Center for Popular Democracy
Children's Defense Fund
Community Change Action
Demand Progress
Demos
Gravel Institute
Hope Center for College, Community, and Justice, Temple University
IfNotNow
Journey for Justice Alliance
Justice Democrats
March for Our Lives
MoveOn
National Council for Community and Education Partnerships
National Domestic Workers Alliance
Network for Public Education
NextGen America
Our Revolution
Public Citizen
Progress America
Progressive Democrats of America
Rise
South Asian Americans Leading Together
Social Security Works
Student Voice

Sunrise Movement
Swipe Out Hunger
UltraViolet
Working Families Party

State and local groups:

18by.Vote (Massachusetts)
AFT-Vermont
America's Islamic Radio (New York)
Alliance of Rhode Island Southeast Asians for Education
Asociación de Mujeres Progresistas (New York)
Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of Texas
Fields Freelance (Ohio)
Forward Montana
GenUp (California)
Housing and Economic Rights Advocates (California)
Hudson County Progressive Alliance
Long Island Activists
Long Island Progressive Coalition
Long Island Social Justice Action Network
Michigan State University College Democrats
Mississippi Votes
Mississippi Young Democrats
New Era Colorado
New Hampshire Youth Movement
New Hour for Women and Children Long Island
New Jersey-08 for Progress
New Jersey Communities United
New Jersey Working Families Alliance
New York Communities for Change
New York Progressive Action Network
NY-02 Indivisible
North Country chapter of New York Progressive Action Network
NoCap (North Carolina)
Our Wisconsin Revolution
Progressive East End Reformers
Progressive Democrats of Hudson County
Reclaim Philadelphia
Reclaim Rhode Island
Suffolk Progressives (New York)
Women's Diversity Network
Young Long Island for Justice
Young Professionals of Long Island
Uptown Progressive Action chapter of New York Progressive Action Network
Zero Debt Massachusetts

