

## 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.”

“All Americans — Black and white, Native and newcomer, Hispanic and Asian alike — deserve the opportunity to pursue their dreams and fulfill their true potentials. Many times, higher education is the key to unlocking that American Dream, and yet for too long, the cost of college has been out of reach for too many. Lowering the cost of college is one of the many ways that we can address the systemic racism and the racial wealth gap that plagues this country,” **said NEA President Becky Pringle.** “That’s why the National Education Association has worked with Sen. Bernie Sanders on the College for All Act. While broad-based debt cancellation will provide much needed relief for numerous Americans, it does not solve the college affordability crisis for those who are about to enter into higher education. We have to reverse the divestment in higher education and shift the burden of cost away from individuals and families.”

“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.”

“We are thrilled to endorse the College for All Act. The movement for tuition-free college recognizes that today, the vast majority of students and families, especially underserved students, parenting students, and those from minoritized backgrounds, need help affording college,” **said Dr. Sara Goldrick-Rab, Founder of the Hope Center for College Community and Justice in Philadelphia and Professor of Sociology and Medicine at Temple University.** “This bill creates a durable federal-state partnership, invests in HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs, and will move us toward a higher education system that finally meets the needs of #RealCollege students.”

“In a society that values equity, getting an education shouldn't mean assuming a six-figure tab to pay for it. Yet, student loan debt has become a national calamity, one that is destroying millions of lives and is crippling our economy,” **said Ana Maria Archila, Co-executive Director of the Center for Popular Democracy.** Senator Sanders' “College for All” Act offers a critical solution to this ongoing crisis by providing working families — particularly those of color who have historically been saddled with this burden — a path to higher education that's tuition free. Center for Popular Democracy is proud to support this legislation and all steps being taken to achieve education, racial and economic justice for everyone.”

“Every day millions of students have to decide whether to buy groceries, save for rent, or pay for their tuition” **said Max Lubin, Co-Founder & CEO of Rise.** “Under President Biden's plan introduced by Senator Sanders into Congress today, students would no longer have to make that excruciating choice. Students could focus on learning and launching a career instead of struggling with basic needs and crippling student loan debt. Thousands of Rise students have spoken out in support of this bill, and we look forward to rallying supporters nationwide to enact it as soon as possible.”

## **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)  
New York Taxi Workers Alliance (NYTWA)  
AFT-Vermont  
Massachusetts Teachers Association (MTA)

### **National groups:**

18 Million Rising  
Action Center on Race and the Economy  
Alliance for Youth Action  
American Association of University Professors  
American Friends Service Committee  
American Medical Student Association  
Badass Teachers Association  
Center for Law and Social Policy  
Center for Popular Democracy  
Children's Defense Fund  
Community Change Action  
Council for Opportunity in Education  
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  
NAACP  
National Council for Community and Education Partnerships  
National Domestic Workers Alliance  
Network for Public Education  
NextGen America  
Our Revolution

People's Action  
Public Citizen  
Progress America  
Progressive Democrats of America  
Refugee and Immigrant Center for Education and Legal Services (RAICES)  
Rise  
South Asian Americans Leading Together  
Social Security Works  
Student Action  
StudentDebtCrisis  
Student Voice  
Sunrise Movement  
Swipe Out Hunger  
UltraViolet  
Working Families Party

**State and local groups:**

18by.Vote  
Alliance for Quality Education  
Alliance of Rhode Island Southeast Asians for Education  
America's Islamic Radio  
Appalachian Indivisible  
Asociación de Mujeres Progresistas  
Black Leaders Organizing for Change  
ChangeTN  
Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of Texas  
Fields Freelance  
Forward Montana  
GenUp  
Housing and Economic Rights Advocates  
Hudson County Progressive Alliance  
Indivisible George Coalition  
Indivisible GA-04  
Indivisible Long Island  
Indivisible South Shore Long Island  
Long Island Activists  
Long Island Progressive Coalition  
Long Island Social Justice Action Network  
Michigan State University College Democrats  
Michigan Student Power  
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  
Ohio Student Association  
One Pennsylvania  
Our Revolution Nashville and Middle Tennessee  
Our Wisconsin Revolution  
Pennsylvania Stands Up  
Progressive East End Reformers  
Progressive Democrats of Hudson County  
Reclaim Philadelphia  
Reclaim Rhode Island  
Rise Michigan  
Suffolk Progressives  
Washington Student Association  
Women's Diversity Network  
You Power Purpose  
Young Long Island for Justice  
Young Progressives of UW-Madison  
Young Professionals of Long Island  
Uptown Progressive Action chapter of New York Progressive Action Network  
Urban Triage  
Zero Debt Massachusetts