December 15, 2025

The Honorable Nanette Barragán
U.S. House of Representatives
Rayburn House Office Building, Room 2312
Washington, D.C. 20515

Subject: AICCU Endorsement of Food for Thought Act of 2025

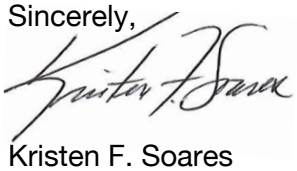
Dear Congresswoman Barragán:

On behalf of the Association of Independent California Colleges and Universities (AICCU), I write to endorse your Food for Thought Act of 2025. This legislation would provide federal grants to institutions of higher education to support their students who face the most need and are the most vulnerable with free on-campus meals and other programs. As more students continue to face food insecurity and institutions struggle with recent cuts to MSI and FIPSE grants, this bill is critically important to ensure that students receive essential basic needs, so that they can thrive personally and academically.

AICCU is the organizational voice for over 85 independent colleges and universities in California. Our member institutions are nonprofit, degree-granting, and accredited by the WASC Senior College and University Commission. Together, the independent higher education sector enrolls over 184,000 undergraduate students (including over 47,500 Pell Grant students) and over 162,000 graduate students. Our campuses also serve as vital pillars in their communities by driving economic growth through employment, supporting local businesses through substantial spending, and enriching the cultural landscape with impactful programs that engage K-12 schools and beyond.

Independent California colleges and universities are committed partners in making college affordable. With a strong federal partnership, we can better meet the growing needs of today's students. Congresswoman Barragán, thank you for introducing this important legislation and for your leadership on this issue. Please do not hesitate to contact me if there is anything AICCU can do to further support your efforts on this bill.

Sincerely,



Kristen F. Soares
President