

College Affordability Caucus

Co-Chairs: Reps. Katie Porter (CA-45), Susie Lee (NV-03), and Jahana Hayes (CT-05)

Members: Reps. Brendan Boyle, Suzanne Bonamici, Marilyn Strickland, Andy Levin, Dan Kildee, Betty McCollum, Ann McLane Kuster, Tom Suozzi, Mary Gay Scanlon, Haley Stevens, Marie Newman, Jimmy Gomez, Sean Casten, Lori Trahan, Seth Moulton, David Trone, Jamie Raskin, Jerry McNeerney, Mike Levin, Paul Tonko

Endorsements: Access to Attainment, National Education Association, Institute for Higher Education Policy, Student Debt Crisis, Young Invincibles, Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities, University of California System, California Community Colleges, National Association for College Admission Counseling, National Association of Consumer Bankruptcy Attorneys, National Consumer Law Center (on behalf of its low income clients)

Mission Statement: The mission of the College Affordability Caucus (CAC) is to convene a diverse group of Congressmembers to discuss the complex drivers of the increasing cost of higher education and the resulting accessibility barriers to students seeking a postsecondary degree or credential. The CAC will highlight solutions to the student loan default crisis that ensure adequate guardrails are in place to protect every student from predatory actors and reduce barriers to completion that subsequently heighten college debt for far too many students - including first generation students, students of color, and lower income students.

The CAC was founded in 2019 by Rep. Katie Porter, a law school professor and an expert in consumer protection policy with experience fighting against financial abuse, and Rep. Jahana Hayes, a first-generation college student who depended on federal student aid to complete her degree and who subsequently helped countless students navigate the complicated path to a post-secondary degree as an educator.

The additional Members of the CAC represent rural, urban, and suburban communities, serve constituents of various demographic and socioeconomic backgrounds, and have a range of relevant experience which they bring to this discussion. Some are college and graduate school professors and many currently hold or recently paid-off their own student debt. Additionally, every Member of this caucus represents colleges or universities in their district.

Drawing on the diversity of experience and perspectives of its Members, the College Affordability Caucus will invite issue experts to participate in roundtable discussions about how to best address the college affordability crisis in terms of the costs of college and ways of paying those costs, ranging from debt to federal aid to savings tools. The Caucus will work closely with the Committee on Education and Labor as it crafts and reauthorizes the Higher Education Act, helping to elevate the urgency of the issue of access and affordability and bring comprehensive student-centered reforms over the finish line.

Outside of regular meetings, Members of the Caucus will work to bring their colleagues on both sides of the aisle into this ongoing conversation. The goal is placing and keeping the student debt crisis at the forefront of Congress' legislative agenda and striving to ensure that a college degree leading to gainful employment is available to Americans of all economic backgrounds.

For more information, or to join the College Affordability Caucus, please contact Audriana Hull with Rep. Porter's office at Audriana.Hull@mail.house.gov.