*Critical Care* Template Letter to Members of Congress

Dear {Member of Congress},

I write to you as a {professor} at {institution} and as your constituent. I live in {town}.

As colleges and universities clamor for bailout funding, I urge you to tie funds to reforms that address long-standing problems in American higher education. Colleges and universities can and must do better than just return to the status quo ante.

The National Association of Scholars’ new policy guide, [*Critical Care*](https://www.nas.org/reports/critical-care)*,* outlines how Congress can put students first, support students in need, refocus colleges and universities on rigorous classroom instruction, and prioritize intellectual freedom and intellectual diversity on campus.

[*Critical Care*](https://www.nas.org/reports/critical-care)urges Congress to target funding based on basic economic priorities. No bailout funds should go to the **wealthiest colleges** that have endowments sufficient to ride out this storm. No bailout funds should support the salaries or benefits of **administrators** or non-academic support staff, whose numbers have proliferated at the expense of faculty and whose “co-curriculum” seeks to replace teaching with indoctrination. Congress should **put students first** by reforming student debt lending practices and by ensuring that colleges and universities share the burden of students’ financial choices.

Congress should also ask colleges to sign an **intellectual freedom charter**; respect **due process** in all investigatory and disciplinary proceedings; commit themselves to promoting **First Amendment** rights and **intellectual diversity**; prioritize practical disciplines critical to American **national security**; **limit foreign dependence**, particularly on countries such as China that have demonstrated hostility to American interests; and support American immigration laws by **prohibiting illegal aliens**.

Colleges and universities only deserve taxpayer support if they control their runaway spending and support American principles.

This is just a beginning. Congress can restore higher education to good health only by reforming the Higher Education Act as a whole, as well as the rules governing colleges’ eligibility to receive federal research grants.

Respectfully yours,

{Your Name}