



February 2, 2026

Pennsylvania House Education Committee

RE – House Bill 2084 – The Pennsylvania Promise

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the groups listed on this letter, which represent thousands of faculty, coaches, and staff at public universities across the Commonwealth, **we strongly urge you to SUPPORT House Bill 2084** sponsored by Chairman Jordan Harris. We commend Chairman Harris and Senator Hughes for their important work on this legislation, and we appreciate Chairman Schweyer calling it up for a vote.

House Bill 2084, also known as the Pennsylvania Promise, would be a gamechanger for our Commonwealth. We strongly support this legislation, and it is our hope you will consider voting “yes” to move the bill out of committee.

In short, the PA Promise would make public college more affordable and would lessen the debt load of generations of students to come. We feel the time to act is now for working families and students in our Commonwealth. When graduates have more money to invest post-graduation, they will invest it back in our communities.

It is no secret that Pennsylvania ranks near the bottom of state rankings for funding public higher education, and a degree remains financially unobtainable for too many. Thanks to the hard work of the general assembly, this trend is beginning to change. Passing the PA Promise will make college even more affordable for those students who choose a path that includes higher education. The PA Promise also benefits adult learners who seek to come back for a degree or credential. This proposal is key in filling the roles that all of our groups represent: teachers, nurses, public employees, first responders, and many other careers that serve our Commonwealth.

The PA Promise would help return our public higher education system to a state-funded model versus the student-funded model that Pennsylvania has become over the decades. Our

hardworking students deserve a high-quality public higher education at the most affordable price. Our faculty and staff are delivering on the first part, and we look forward to a continued partnership with the general assembly on the second part.

The PA Promise also would make Pennsylvania more attractive for employers, and virtually all the indicators suggest that the Commonwealth will need more workers with credentials and degrees.

Please feel free to contact us with any questions you may have.

Thank you,

American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Council 13 (AFSCME)
American Federation of Teachers Pennsylvania (AFT-PA)
Association of Pennsylvania State College and University Faculties (APSCUF)
Faculty and State Federation of Community College of Philadelphia (FSFCCP)
Federation of Reading Area Community College (RACC)
Montgomery County Community College Faculty Federation
Pennsylvania AFL-CIO
Pennsylvania American Association of University Professors (PA AAUP)
Pennsylvania State Education Association (PSEA)
Temple Association of University Professionals (TAUP)
United Food and Commercial Workers Local 1776 (UFCW)
United Steelworkers District 10 (USW)