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June 24, 2026

The Honorable Tim Walberg  
Chairman  
Committee on Education and the Workforce  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Robert C. Scott  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Education and the Workforce  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Walberg and Ranking Member Scott,

On behalf of the American Council of Trustees and Alumni (ACTA), I write to express our strong support for H.R. 2555, the *Freedom of Association in Higher Education Act of 2025*. As a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting academic excellence, academic freedom, and accountability at America’s colleges and universities, ACTA recognizes that a robust campus environment is inextricably linked to the fundamental right of expressive association.

Our network of over 23,000 trustees, alumni, and higher education leaders have reported countless troubling instances of administrative overreach where colleges and universities have penalized students simply for attempting to join or form lawful, gender-exclusive student organizations. Undergraduates have been subjected to adverse actions, including exclusion from campus leadership roles, the loss of scholarships and fellowships, and even formal disciplinary measures, solely for exercising rights that should be protected. In addition, a number of these organizations have been forced to accept arbitrary limitations on their on-campus activities under the threat of losing their institutional recognition. Forcing students to choose between fully participating in campus life and associating with single-sex organizations such as sororities and fraternities runs completely counter to the spirit of a free and open campus climate.

H.R. 2555 serves as a vital measure to safeguard students’ freedom of association. By establishing clear standards in line with existing First Amendment jurisprudence, the bill ensures that administrators cannot systematically punish or discriminate against students for their affiliation with single-sex organizations.

PROMOTING ACADEMIC FREEDOM AND EXCELLENCE

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Chairman Walberg and Ranking Member Scott

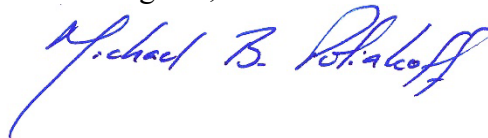
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Importantly, the legislation achieves this while preserving appropriate institutional autonomy. Universities retain their inherent power to discipline students for genuine conduct violations unrelated to group affiliation while also drawing a firm and necessary line against associational discrimination.

At ACTA, we consistently urge higher education governing boards to foster campus climates that rightly protect and respect the constitutional rights of their students. When institutions use administrative coercion to dictate social associations, they cultivate an atmosphere of ideological conformity and cast a chilling effect over all forms of student assembly. The *Freedom of Association in Higher Education Act* will provide a powerful statutory foundation to protect student expression and ensure that universities remain bastions of free association. While we would have preferred for institutions to take up this necessary reform internally, when boards fail to safeguard the rights of their campus community, it is both prudent and necessary for legislators to do so.

Warm regards,



Michael Poliakoff  
President