



September 18, 2023

Honorable Sarah Huckabee Sanders
Governor of Arkansas
State Capitol, Room 250
Little Rock, Arkansas 85007

Dear Governor Sanders:

As we work toward expanding America's position as a world leader, it is our shared goal to produce the best and the brightest talent that any country has to offer. We know that you and other Governors around the country are deeply focused on and committed to education, as evidenced by the significant portion of state budgets allocated to education spending. We also know you share the Biden-Harris Administration's commitment to the goal of excellence in education for all students. It is through the opportunities provided to our students that we will be

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The longstanding and ongoing underinvestment in University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff ~~hinders not only the students, faculty, and community that the institution serves.~~ Furthermore, it

may contribute to a lack of economic activity that would ultimately benefit Arkansas. It is our hope that we can work together to make this institution whole after decades of being underfunded.

Using readily available data from the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) Integrated Postsecondary Education Survey (IPEDS) that ranges from 1987 to 2020, we calculated the amount that these institutions would have received if their state funding per student were equal to that of 1862 institutions. Unequitable funding of the 1890 institution in your state has caused a severe financial gap, in the last 30 years alone, an additional \$330,935,712 would have been available for the university. These funds could have supported infrastructure and student services

We are at an inflection point that will determine our place in the world as leaders. We need to solidify our country as the top producer of talent and innovation – demonstrating to the global

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