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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Rise, GENup, and more mobilize in support of the College for All Act of 2021

Press release

Washington, D.C., 21 April 2021 — GENup, in partnership with Rise and other grassroots organizations, will be hosting a virtual Week of Action in support of Senator Bernie Sanders and Representative Pramila Jayapal's College for All Act of 2021. The mobilization will take place from Wednesday, April 21 through Friday, April 23, with events held at 10:00-11:00 a.m. PST each day. Participants will take part in nationwide phone banking efforts to urge members of Congress to support this groundbreaking legislation. The daily phone banks will be held over Zoom, which members of the public and the press can access [here](#).

The College for All Act is a comprehensive plan to lessen the burdensome cost of higher education on students from lower-income families. Its provisions include, but are not limited to, providing tuition-free community colleges for all; eliminating tuition costs at private Minority-Serving Institutions (MSIs) and public four-year institutions for students from families earning less than \$125,000 per year; doubling the maximum Pell Grant award to \$12,990 starting with the 2021-2022 school year; expanding the scope of Pell Grants to increase their real value; authorizes a \$10 billion grant to address the inequities between more generously funded private four-year institutions and private Minority-Serving Institutions (MSIs) along with public colleges and universities; triples funding for the Federal TRIO Programs; and doubles funding for the Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs. The above measures will be funded by a 0.5% tax on stock trades, a 0.1% fee on bonds, and a 0.005% fee on derivatives, which are projected to collectively generate up to \$2.4 trillion in the next decade.

This legislation is a bold but necessary step toward improving access to high-quality postsecondary educational opportunities for students who have historically been underrepresented in higher education. As part of the effort to rebuild our nation in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic, the College for All Act will ensure that more families in America have the opportunity to build generational wealth and realize their diverse, multifaceted American dreams.

"In the wealthiest country in the history of the world, a higher education should be a right for all, not a privilege for the few. If we are going to have the kind of standard of living that the American people deserve, we need to have the best educated workforce in the world. It is absolutely unacceptable that hundreds of thousands of bright young Americans do not get a higher education each year, not because they are unqualified, but because their family does not have enough money. In the 21st century, a free public education system that goes from kindergarten through high school is no longer good enough. The time is long overdue to make public colleges and universities tuition-free and debt-free for working families," said Senator Bernie Sanders (I-Vermont).

“While President Biden can and should immediately cancel student debt for millions of borrowers, Congress must ensure that working families never have to take out these crushing loans to receive a higher education in the first place. The College for All Act will free students from a lifetime of debt, invest in working people, and transform higher education across America by making community college free for everyone and eliminating tuition and fees at public colleges and universities for families making up to \$125,000,” said Representative Pramila Jayapal (D-Washington).

“The College For All Act is not only groundbreaking, but it’s also equitable. As our society is becoming more aware of the various obstacles to an education that low-income and minority students are expected to overcome, Senator Sanders’ plans to increase support for low-income, first-gen, and minority students prioritize breaking down these barriers. I think that’s remarkable, and it’s the next step to closing the achievement and income gaps that plague the American education system and job market,” said Genavieve Koenigshofer, Chief of Staff for GENup.

Members of the public and the press can access the bill summary [here](#), the legislative text [here](#), organizational statements of support [here](#), and the summary of the Tax on Wall Street Speculation Act [here](#).

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