

June 9, 2026

Dear Members of the House Committee on Education & the Workforce,

I am writing to emphasize the critical importance of the “Equal Campus Access Act of 2025.” H.R. 5505 is a crucial piece of legislation addressing pressing concerns regarding freedom of association for religious students on college and university campuses nationwide.

As an advocate for responsible governance, academic quality, and viewpoint diversity in higher education, the James G. Martin Center for Academic Renewal is deeply committed to ensuring that our academic institutions remain bastions of free association and freedom of conscience. However, recent trends indicate a troubling erosion of these fundamental principles within our institutions of higher learning.

The “Freedom of Association in Higher Education Act of 2025” is essential because it reaffirms and protects the rights guaranteed by the First Amendment of the United States Constitution, particularly on college campuses, where free association should be most vigorously defended.

Too often, American colleges and universities restrict the essential First Amendment protections that all students should enjoy. Many colleges and universities require student organizations, as a condition of university recognition, to accept any enrolled student as a general member or officer, regardless of the student’s personal beliefs. Without university recognition, student organizations lose access to university funding, support, and facilities.

This happened at my own alma mater, UNC-Chapel Hill, in 2011. Members of a Christian a cappella group, Psalm 100, were placed under university investigation on discrimination charges after the group voted to terminate the membership of a student because of his views on homosexuality. While Psalm 100 was eventually exonerated, not all such cases end happily.

The “Equal Campus Access Act of 2025” addresses this critical issue by providing much-needed guidance and protection for students seeking to form belief-based student organizations.

As members of the House Committee on Education & the Workforce, you have a unique opportunity to champion this important cause and safeguard the foundational principles of our democracy. I hope you will carefully consider the “Equal Campus Access Act of 2025.”

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter. Should you have any questions or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact me at 919-523-1765 or [jarobinson@jamesgmartin.center](mailto:jarobinson@jamesgmartin.center).

Sincerely,



Jenna A. Robinson  
President