

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 22, 2020

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
S-230, U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
S-221, U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Leader McConnell and Leader Schumer:

Universities across the Arizona and America are working to ensure the health and safety of their students and faculty, while helping to combat the COVID-19 outbreak through cutting-edge research. We write to bring attention to the financial impacts to universities in Arizona as a result of this virus.

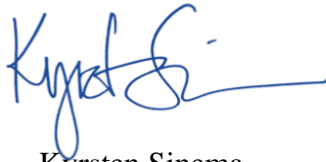
Universities across Arizona have moved students to online platforms to help reduce the spread of the virus. As universities encourage their employees to work from home, many are concerned about the long-term impact the coronavirus will have on their institutions. We are deeply concerned about the risks that a widespread coronavirus outbreak poses to public health and to our economy, and we recognize the importance of a quick federal public health response to minimize the risk of the disease spreading.

Arizona State University estimates their total financial impact to be approximately \$25 million. This preliminary estimate includes additional material expenses to enhance public health and public safety services and infrastructure; increased expenses for counseling, mentoring, coaching and other student services; increased expenses for technology hardware and services to deliver all courses online and lost revenue. The University of Arizona estimates their financial impact to be around \$63 million. This impact is from shortfalls in tuition and fees, housing reimbursements, and cancelled events along with the costs for transitioning to online course delivery and public health protection measures. Northern Arizona University estimates approximately \$10 million in additional investments, and costs that have been necessary to insure the public safety and health of their students, faculty and staff and to move a primarily online learning environment while also maintaining a residential living community. This has included material expenses; infrastructure and technology investments; enhanced physical and mental health services including tele-health; increased and modified student services for an entirely online learning modality, and lost revenue to date.

As the outbreak continues, we are committed to working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to ensure universities have the resources they need to limit the spread of the disease and ensure that students, faculty, and staff receive the help that they need.

Thank you for your leadership in these difficult times. We look forward to working with you to protect the health and economic security of all Americans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kyrsten Sinema', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kyrsten Sinema
U.S. Senator

Martha McSally
U.S. Senator