

## **National Emergency Student Vote Act**

*U.S. Senators Michael Bennet, Amy Klobuchar, Dick Durbin, and Cory Booker, along with Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi*

The COVID-19 pandemic has forced many colleges and universities to close their campuses, dislocating millions of students and complicating questions about where and how they will vote. As the pandemic continues into the fall, the urgency grows of helping college students nationwide register and vote in the 2020 elections.

The National Emergency Student Vote Act ensures that even if students are not on campus this fall, colleges and universities would still have to comply with an existing requirement to provide students voter registration forms. For the first time, the bill would also ask colleges and universities to send students nonpartisan resources to help them register to vote, request absentee ballots, and cast their ballot.

Here's how the National Emergency Student Vote Act would work:

- **Registration.** Colleges and universities are already required to send students “physically in attendance” voter registration forms to help them register to vote where they attend school. This bill strikes that phrase, requiring colleges or universities to provide students registration forms and resources to help them determine where they are eligible to vote, even if they are not on campus.
- **Voting.** If a college or university requires or encourages students to stay off campus this fall, it would have to send students absentee ballot applications, along with instructions that they are only for those eligible to vote in the state. It would also have to share nonpartisan resources to help students registered elsewhere learn about their different options for voting, such as absentee voting and early voting. Colleges and universities would have to also remind students about election-related deadlines and voting requirements.