

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 19, 2017

His Excellency Viktor Orbán
Prime Minister
1357 Budapest, Pf. 6.
Budapest, Hungary

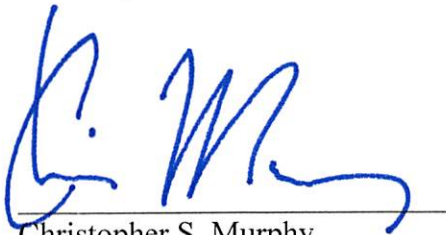
Dear Prime Minister Orbán,

We are writing today with concern about legislation passed by the National Assembly that threatens the existence of Central European University, an accredited U.S. institution of higher learning and one of Europe's most renowned universities. Since its founding in 1991, Central European University in Budapest has demonstrated a commitment to rigorous academic study, outstanding scholarly research, and a diverse student body. It has also played an important role in developing cultural and academic ties between Hungary and the United States through student exchanges and study abroad programs that benefit both our countries. In so doing, Central European University has become one of the highest-ranked universities in Europe, bringing new opportunities and prestige to Hungarian citizens.

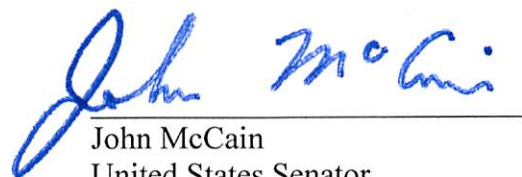
As you know, the legislation includes a requirement that foreign-accredited universities operate a campus in their own countries. It includes exceptions that would apply to the other 27 international universities in Hungary, so that in the end it applies solely to CEU. This legislation threatens academic freedom and disregards the longstanding relationship Central European University has with the Hungarian people. Cooperation and exchanges in the field of education are foundational elements of the Helsinki Final Act. Instead of shutting down academic institutions that expand bilateral relationships, we should be working together to strengthen them and expand their accessibility.

Ultimately, we fear that this legislation puts at risk academic institutions and academic freedom in Hungary. The Hungarian people have long benefited from Central European University's educational activities in your country. We encourage you to work with Central European University to find a solution that ensures their continued place as an important center of higher education in Europe and a valuable link between our two countries.

Sincerely,



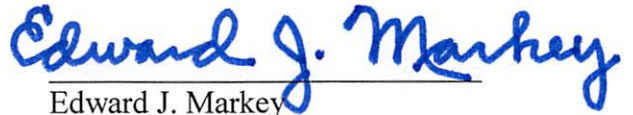
Christopher S. Murphy
United States Senator



John McCain
United States Senator



Charles E. Schumer
United States Senator



Edward J. Markey
United States Senator



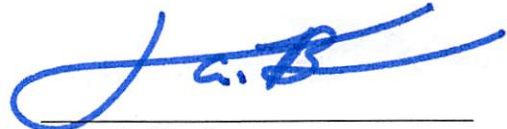
Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator



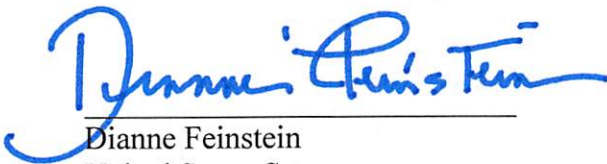
Brian Schatz
United States Senator



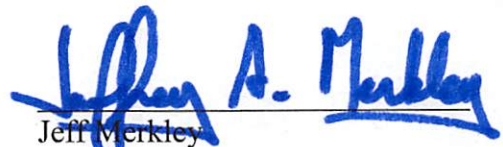
Orrin G. Hatch
United States Senator



Cory A. Booker
United States Senator



Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator



Jeff Merkley
United States Senator



Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator

Edward J. Manning

John E. ...

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