

**TEMPLATE FOR COMMUNICATING/UPDATING OTHERS ABOUT HIGHER ED DEFENSE
ORGANIZING (up to date as of 4/18/25)**

Dear [AUDIENCE - EG, COLLEAGUES],

I want to share a brief update on cross-institutional advocacy efforts to defend higher education.

Over the last month, 5 university senates have adopted resolutions, modeled on the one passed initially by the Rutgers Senate (<https://tinyurl.com/3wt6dje6>), calling for their institutions to join a **“mutual academic defense compact” (or MADC)**. These now also include the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Indiana University–Bloomington, and Michigan State University (advocating a Big10-wide approach), and the University of Massachusetts (calling for a broader coalition of public and land-grant universities). This growing movement has also gained national attention across a range of media. In addition to recent coverage in *The Chronicle of Higher Ed*, *Inside Higher Ed*, *The Guardian*, *The Nation*, and the *New York Times* (David Brooks), Rachel Maddow featured the effort on her show earlier this week ([Watch the segment](#)). **There are, as a result, increasing calls - from faculty, staff, students, alums, and others - for university leaders to commit to this strategy.**

For those wanting to stay updated, I encourage you to follow the new coalition effort, **We Are Higher Ed**, which is helping coordinate this work: wearehighered.org, or on BlueSky: @wearehighered.bsky.social. It’s also a good moment to follow the national **AAUP** organization, now led by Rutgers' own Professor Todd Wolfson: aaup.org, and on BlueSky: @aaup.bsky.social.

Notably, BlueSky has become a highly active space for information sharing and organizing around higher ed advocacy. If you haven’t yet explored it, now may be a useful time to do so.

Wishing you steadiness and community in these uncertain times.

Warmly,

Anna