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WOMEN’S CRIMINAL JUSTICE EDUCATION ORGANIZATION RESPONDS IN OPPOSITION TO REP. COMER’S AMENDMENT TO THE COLLEGE AFFORDABILITY ACT

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Today, Representative James Comer (KY-1) proposed an amendment to the College Affordability Act, H.R. 4674, that seeks to deny access to the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Plan to people who have committed “crimes against children.” As an organization committed to removing barriers to higher education for women with criminal convictions, College & Community Fellowship stands in opposition to this amendment.

The following statement can be attributed to Vivian Nixon, Executive Director of College & Community Fellowship:

“College & Community Fellowship is opposed to Representative James Comer’s amendment to the H.R. 4674, College Affordability Act. He seeks to deny access to the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Plan to people who have committed ‘crimes against children.’ The phraseology is vague and there would be immense difficulty with implementation including the potential to affect victims of domestic violence. However, most importantly, as a group that helps women with criminal convictions successfully transition back into society, we know firsthand the negative impact education barriers have on people with justice-involvement, particularly barriers that only impact those who are not affluent enough to pay for college on their own. We as an organization have seen the enormous power of education. Research demonstrates it reduces recidivism. Denying a population this access to education is not ‘tough on crime,’ it is simply bad policy.”

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*College & Community Fellowship enables women with criminal convictions to earn their college degrees so that they, their families and their communities can thrive. We advocate for equity and opportunity for the communities we serve. We do this through our college and career programming, policy and advocacy work and technical assistance.*