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May 9, 2013

Senator Marco Rubio  
284 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Rubio:

Opportunity Nation, a bipartisan, cross-sector national campaign driven by organizations and individuals committed to expanding economic mobility and closing the opportunity gap in America, enthusiastically supports your bill, the American Dream Accounts Act. This act would allow students to make smart investments in their educational future and help them reach their career goals.

Opportunity Nation is a collaboration of more than 250 national non-profits, employers, educational institutions, faith-based and community organizations who together support, engage and reach more than 100 million Americans. Our coalition is committed to the notion that an individual's zip code at birth should not determine his or her destiny. We believe that targeted actions to provide greater opportunity for young Americans will pay off in long-term economic success for families, communities and the Nation.

As you know, students and their parents are concerned about the rising cost of higher education and the fear of crippling debt. This burden grows if they are among the millions who fail to complete college after incurring thousands of dollars in loans. First-generation college students often face unique barriers both starting and completing their degree or credential. These young people need support and guidance to navigate their educational path, graduate and successfully build connections to a career in their field. Many of the growing job sectors in the 21<sup>st</sup> century economy require credentials beyond high school, making success in higher education critical not only for the economic well-being of these students but for our country's global competitiveness. That is why Opportunity Nation supports efforts like the American Dream Accounts Act, which are intended to help pave the way from high school to post-secondary education and training.

We must repair the ladder of opportunity for all students willing to climb, and we thank you for your leadership. We look forward to continuing to work with you on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Mark Edwards  
Executive Director