

April 30, 2020

Dear Sen. Braun:

Thank you for your letter today.

I can report that the University of Notre Dame had already decided to forego receipt of the stimulus funds that you've referenced.

You may know that the University neither sought, nor applied for the funds in question. We certainly didn't receive any. Instead, it was Congress that authorized the "government handout" you characterize, and the U.S. Department of Education that concocted a formula by which each college and university in the country would receive an allocation, regardless of endowment. Further, the Department of Education then told colleges and universities exactly how much money they should ask for and how to apply it.

Also, it is my understanding that the monies not claimed by universities will be automatically returned to the Treasury Department's general fund.

Perhaps you can convince the Administration to, instead, as you say, have "the stimulus money be redistributed to other schools that have an acute need of emergency financial aid funds."

Sincerely,

John I. Jenkins, C.S.C.
President