

JOHN CORNYN
TEXAS

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4305

Dear Texas Consilium:

I've learned to never mistake my formal education for what I know, or what I have the potential to learn.

I have always been an avid reader. It opens the window for me to learn about great men and women before my time, places I have never seen, and experiences I will never have, and I believe it provides a new perspective, which makes me more effective in life.

I recently read a book by a college professor named Cathy Davidson. In her book, Cathy talks about a phenomenon called "attention blindness," in which you're so focused on one thing that you miss everything else, and how that has hindered our society's ability to adapt for the digital age.

While we broadly acknowledge how the advent of technology has changed the world, and will no doubt continue to flip traditional careers on their heads. She noted that by one estimate, 65 percent of children entering grade school this year will end up working in careers that haven't even been invented yet. That's not to say that our jobs will soon be replaced by robots, but it is a reminder that though although the most educated generation our country has ever seen is graduating, they must also be the most adaptable.

Walking through life with a static perception of what you know, or what you *think you should* know, will not serve you or anyone around you well.

With each step in my career, I have tried to learn as much as possible from those around me. During my time as a judge, Texas Attorney General, and now as your U.S. Senator, I have always proudly held the title of student. I encourage you to take every opportunity to broaden your horizons. Whether that means reading, traveling, talking to people with whom you disagree, or stepping out of your comfort zone, you have a lot left to learn.

The ones who succeed don't always have the highest GPA or the perfect resume—they are the ones who can adapt and evolve, and who refuse to stop learning. May you pursue excellence in every endeavor.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John Cornyn". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

JOHN CORNYN
United States Senator