

Dear Member of Congress,

As you consider funding decisions this year, the 576 undersigned organizations representing students, educators, advocates, consumers, institutions, and employers, write to urge you to protect the federal student loan program and strengthen Pell Grants, which are the nation's most important investment in higher education.

Recent troubling proposals to significantly cut or eliminate funding for Pell Grants, Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants (SEOG), Federal Work Study (FWS), TRIO, GEAR UP and other programs threaten the stability of our nation's higher education and workforce systems. Federal student aid serves a critical role in preserving access to higher education, and enabling student success at a time when postsecondary education has never been more necessary to support the American economy.

The federal government has long played a key role in ensuring that our nation has a highly-skilled workforce and individuals are able to pursue their higher education goals. That commitment has helped previous generations afford college and attain their educational and career goals. Continuing this commitment is even more imperative now that education beyond the high school level is critical to success in the workforce. Nearly all new jobs created in our economy require some postsecondary education,<sup>1</sup> and these jobs represent the kinds of high-wage, high quality employment that builds prosperity and reduces demand on government services.<sup>2</sup>

At a time when many in our nation are deeply worried about jobs and wages, education and career training provide the surest pathway to secure, high-income employment. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, in January 2017 the unemployment rate for workers with only a high school diploma was 5.9 percent, compared to 3.7 percent for those with an associate and just 2.5 percent for those with a bachelor's or graduate/professional degree.<sup>3</sup>

Federal student aid, including access to federal student loans and Pell grants, has been a remarkably effective tool for strengthening America's economy and society for generations. Federal programs for college students date back to World War II, and have enjoyed strong bipartisan support ever since. As you consider the best ways to meet the needs of our country, we ask that you continue this support for our nation's economy by opposing any attempts to cut or reallocate funds away from federal student aid programs.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.bls.gov/web/empsit/cpseea17.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> "the economy has added 11.6 million jobs since the recession" and "11.5 million, or 99 percent of them, have gone to workers with at least some college education...Of the 7.2 million jobs lost in the recession, 5.6 million were jobs for workers with a high school diploma or less. These workers have recovered only 1 percent of those job losses over the past six years. This group also saw no growth among well-paying jobs with benefits." <https://cew.georgetown.edu/wp-content/uploads/Americas-Divided-Recovery-web.pdf> p. 1

<sup>3</sup> "Individuals with higher levels of education earn more, pay more taxes, and are more likely than others to be employed" and "college education increases the chance that adults will move up the socioeconomic ladder and reduces the chance that adults will rely on public assistance." <https://trends.collegeboard.org/sites/default/files/education-pays-2016-full-report.pdf> pp. 3-4

## Student Aid Support Letter

April 4, 2017

On behalf of:

"I Have A Dream" Foundation

"I Have A Dream" Foundation Dallas

10,000 Degrees

Academic Success Program Dallas

Achieve Atlanta

ACT Center for Equity in Learning

Advancing Academics

Alabama Association of Independent Colleges and Universities

Alabama Possible

Albany College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences

Alice Lloyd College

America Needs You-Illinois

American Association of Colleges of Nursing

American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy

American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers

American Association of Community Colleges

American Association of State Colleges and Universities

American Association of University Professors

American Association of University Women

American Council on Education

American Dental Education Association

American Federation of Labor & Congress of Industrial Unions

American Federation of Teachers

American Federation of Teachers Washington

American Indian Higher Education Consortium

American Medical Student Association

American River College

American Veterinary Medical Association

Antioch University

Antlers Public Schools

Arizona College Access Network

Asbury University

Ashland Community & Technical College

Ashland University

Association for Biblical Higher Education

Association of Advanced Rabbinical and Talmudic Schools

Association of American Medical Colleges

Association of American Universities

Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges

Association of Community College Trustees

Association of Independent California Colleges and Universities

Association of Independent Colleges and Universities in Massachusetts

Association of Independent Colleges and Universities of Ohio

Association of Independent Colleges of Art & Design

## Student Aid Support Letter

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Association of Independent Kentucky Colleges and Universities  
Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities  
Association of Presbyterian Colleges and Universities  
Association of Public and Land-grant Universities  
Association of Research Libraries  
Association of Schools of Allied Health Professions  
Association of Vermont Independent Colleges  
Athletic Scholars Advancement Program  
Avila University  
Azusa Pacific University  
Baldwin Wallace University  
Barnard College  
Bay de Noc Community College  
Bellarmino University  
Bemidji State University  
Benedict College  
Bennett College  
Bennington College  
Bethany Lutheran College  
Bethel University  
Bluefield College  
Boricua College  
Boston College  
Boston University  
Bowdoin College  
Boys Hope Girls Hope of Northeastern Ohio  
Brescia University  
Brookhaven College  
Buffalo Valley School  
Burlington-Edison School District  
Cabrini University  
California Community Colleges, Chancellor's Office  
California Education Round Table Intersegmental Coordinating Committee  
California Institute of Technology  
California Public Interest Research Group  
California State University, Northridge  
California State University, Monterey Bay  
Calvin College  
Campaign for College Opportunity  
Campbellsville University  
CampusLogic, Inc.  
Cape Cod Community College  
Capital Community College  
Capital Region Sponsor-A-Scholar, Inc.  
Capital University  
Career & College Clubs

## Student Aid Support Letter

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Carleton College  
Case Western Reserve University  
Center for American Progress  
Center for Law and Social Policy  
Central Carolina Technical College  
Central Community College  
Central Wyoming College  
Champlain College  
Charles & Margaret Jones Scholarship Fund  
Charleston Southern University  
Chicago Public Schools, Office of School Counseling and Postsecondary Advising  
Chicago Summer Business Institute  
Chicago Urban League  
Chicagoland Regional College Program  
Cincinnati Scholarship Foundation  
Cincinnati State Technical and Community College  
Claflin University  
Clark Atlanta University  
Clarkson University  
Cleveland Institute of Art  
Coalition of Higher Education Assistance Organizations  
Cogswell Hall  
College Access: Research & Action  
College Beyond  
College Bound-St. Louis  
College Crusade of Rhode Island  
College Forward  
College Now  
College Now Greater Cleveland  
College of Saint Benedict and Saint John's University  
College of the Holy Cross  
College Possible  
College Possible, Chicago  
College Possible, Milwaukee  
College Possible, Omaha  
College Possible, Philadelphia  
College Possible, Portland  
College Success Arizona  
College Success Foundation  
College Track  
CollegeSpring  
CollegeTracks  
Colorado Public Interest Research Group  
Columbia University in the City of New York  
Commission on Independent Colleges and Universities in New York  
Commit! Partnership

## Student Aid Support Letter

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Community Foundation of Lorain County  
Complete College America  
Concordia College  
Concordia University Irvine  
Conference for Mercy Higher Education  
Connecticut Public Interest Research Group  
Consortium of Universities of the Washington Metropolitan Area  
Consumer Action  
Consumers Union  
Consumers Union  
Corban University  
Cornell University  
Cosumnes River College  
Cottey College  
Council for Christian Colleges & Universities  
Council for Opportunity in Education  
Council of Independent Colleges  
Council of New Jersey State College Locals  
Council on Social Work Education  
Council on Undergraduate Research  
Cranbrook Academy of Art  
Crowder Public Schools  
Crown College  
Cypress Hills Local Development Corporation  
Daemen College  
Danville Area Community College  
DC Prep: PrepNext  
Defiance College  
Delta College  
Demos  
Denver Public Schools  
Denver Scholarship Foundation  
Dillard University  
Doane University  
Dominican College of Blauvelt  
Duke University  
East Bay College Fund  
East Mississippi Community College  
East Valley School District 90  
East Village Youth Program  
Eastern Michigan University  
Eastern Oklahoma State College  
Elizabethtown Community and Technical College  
Emily Griffith Technical College  
Esperanza, Inc.  
Estrela Consulting

## Student Aid Support Letter

April 4, 2017

Faculty Association of Monroe Community College  
Fairfield University  
Federation of Independent Illinois Colleges & Universities  
First Graduate  
Fitchburg High School  
Florida College Access Network  
Folsom Lake College  
Fordham University  
Foundation for a College Education  
Friends University  
Fulfillment Fund  
Fuller Theological Seminary  
Gateway Community and Technical College  
GEAR UP  
Gear Up Project ReACH - Sul Ross State University  
GEAR UP Vancouver Public Schools  
Generation Progress  
Genesys Works  
Genesys Works Chicago  
George M. Pullman Educational Foundation  
Georgetown College  
Georgetown University  
Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce  
Georgia Independent College Association  
Goddard College  
Gogebic Community College  
Gonzaga University  
Grandview School District  
Greater Tampa Chamber of Commerce  
Greenville College  
Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District  
Guilford College  
HACC, Central Pennsylvania's Community College  
Hamline University  
Harris-Stowe State University  
Hartwick College  
Harvard University  
Heidelberg University  
Henderson Community College  
Heritage University  
Higher Ed, Not Debt  
Higher Education Compact of Greater Cleveland  
Higher Education Loan Coalition  
Hinds Community College  
Hobart and William Smith Colleges  
Houghton College

## Student Aid Support Letter

April 4, 2017

Howard Community College  
Illinois Association for College Admission Counseling  
Illinois College Access Network  
Illinois Public Interest Research Group  
iMentor  
Independent Colleges and Universities of Florida  
Independent Colleges of Indiana  
Independent Colleges of Washington  
Indiana University  
Institute for Higher Education Policy  
International Association for College Admission Counseling  
Iowa Association for College Admission Counseling  
Ithaca College  
Ivy Tech Community College of Indiana  
Jackson College  
James Madison University  
Jarvis Christian College  
Johns Hopkins University  
Johnson C. Smith University  
Johnson University  
Kalamazoo College  
Kalamazoo Valley Community College  
Kansas Independent College Association  
Kentucky Christian University  
Kentucky Wesleyan College  
KIPP  
Ladder Up  
Landmark College  
Le Moyne College  
League of United Latin American Citizens  
Learning for Life at Rhode Island College  
Life Pacific College  
Lincoln Park High School  
LINK Unlimited Scholars  
Lorain County Urban League  
Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce  
Los Angeles Southwest College  
Louisiana Association of Independent Colleges and Universities  
Louisiana College  
Macomb Community College  
Madisonville Community College  
Maine College Access Network  
Malone University  
Marlboro College  
Marquette University  
Maryland Consumer Rights Coalition

## Student Aid Support Letter

April 4, 2017

Maryland Independent College and University Association  
Maryland Public Interest Research Group  
Massachusetts Education and Career Opportunities, Inc.  
Massachusetts Public Interest Research Group  
Maysville Community and Technical College  
McCurtain Public Schools  
Medaille College  
Memorial College of Nursing  
Mentoring You College and Career Program  
Mercy College  
Messiah College  
Metropolitan College of New York  
Metropolitan Education Commission  
Michigan Association of State Universities  
Michigan College Access Network  
Michigan School of Professional Psychology  
Michigan State University  
Middlebury  
Middlesex Community College  
Minds Matter Cleveland  
Minnesota Association of College Admission Counseling  
Minnesota Association of Counselors of Color  
Minnesota Private College Council  
Minnesota State College Faculty  
Minnesota State College Student Association  
Minnesota TRIO Association  
Mission Graduates  
Mississippi College  
Missouri Association for College Admission Counseling  
Missouri Baptist University  
Monmouth University  
Montreat College  
Morehead State University  
Moreno Valley College  
Mount Saint Mary's University, Los Angeles  
Mount St. Joseph University  
Mount Vernon School District No. 320  
Mount Wachusett Community College  
Mt. Adams School District  
Mt. Hood Community College  
Multnomah University  
NAACP  
National Association for College Admission Counseling  
National Association of College and University Business Officers  
National Association of College Stores  
National Association of Graduate and Professional Students



## Student Aid Support Letter

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National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities  
National Association of State Student Grant and Aid Programs  
National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators  
National College Access Network  
National Consumer Law Center (on behalf of its low-income clients)  
National Council for Community and Education Partnerships  
National Council of La Raza  
National Education Association  
National Scholarship Providers Association  
Nebraska's Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education  
Network for College Success at the University of Chicago  
Network of ELCA Colleges and Universities  
New American Colleges & Universities  
New Jersey Association for College Admission Counseling  
New Jersey Public Interest Research Group  
New Mexico State University  
New York Public Interest Research Group  
New York State Association for College Admission Counseling  
New York State Financial Aid Administrators Association  
New York University  
Newbury College  
Niagara University  
NODA-Association for Orientation, Transition and Retention in Higher Education  
Norco College  
Normandale Community College  
North Central Michigan College  
North Park University  
Northwest Christian University  
Northwest Missouri State University  
Northwest Nazarene University  
Northwest Technical College  
Northwest University  
Northwestern College of Iowa  
Notre Dame College  
Oberlin College  
Ohio Wesleyan University  
Oklahoma GEAR UP  
Olivet Nazarene University  
One Million Degrees  
One Wisconsin Now  
OneGoal  
Opportunity Nation  
Oral Roberts University  
Owens State Community College  
Owensboro Community and Technical College  
Pace University

Student Aid Support Letter  
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Pacific Lutheran University  
Panola Public School  
Partners for Education at Berea College  
PASFAA, The Pennsylvania Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators  
Pass With Flying Colors  
Paul Smith's College  
PCACAC Government Relations Committee  
Pennsylvania Association for College Admission Counseling  
Pennsylvania Public Interest Research Group  
Pepperdine University  
PHENOM (Public Higher Education Network of Massachusetts)  
Philadelphia Futures  
Pierpont Community & Technical College  
Point University  
Portland State University  
Positive Impact Program  
Princeton University  
Progress Florida  
Quinton Public Schools  
Ramapo College of New Jersey  
Reed College  
Regis University  
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute  
Richmond Promise  
Riverside City College  
Riverside Community College District  
Robert Morris University TRIO, Upward Bound and Talent Search  
Robert and Janice McNair Educational Foundation  
Roberts Wesleyan College  
Rochester Institute of Technology  
Rocky Mountain Association for College Admission Counseling  
Rust College  
Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey  
Sacramento City College  
Saint John's University (MN)  
Saint Louis University  
Saint Mary's University of Minnesota  
Samaritan Hospital School of Nursing, St. Peter's Health Partners  
Santa Clara University  
Savanna Public School  
ScholarMatch  
Scholarship America  
ScholarVersity  
School District of Lancaster  
Seattle Pacific University  
Seattle University

## Student Aid Support Letter

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Seven Hills Behavioral Health Foundation  
Siena College  
Sitting Bull College  
Smith College  
South Carolina Independent Colleges and Universities  
South Louisiana Community College  
Southcentral Kentucky Community and Technical College  
Southern Association for College Admission Counseling  
Southern California College Access Network  
Southern Nazarene University  
Southern Vermont College  
Southern Wesleyan University  
Southwest Baptist University  
Southwestern Christian University  
Southwestern College  
Spalding University  
Spelman College  
Spiro Public Schools  
Spring Arbor University  
St. Bonaventure University  
St. Catherine University  
St. Francis College-New York  
St. John Fisher College  
St. John's College-New Mexico  
St. John's University GEAR UP Program  
St. Joseph's College-New York  
St. Louis Graduates  
St. Michael's College  
Sterling College  
Student Debt Crisis  
Students Rising Above  
Students United  
Suffolk University  
Summit Public Schools  
Sunnyside School District  
Tabor College  
Talent Development Consultant  
Tampa Hillsborough Economic Development Corporation  
Tennessee College Access and Success Network  
Tennessee Independent Colleges and Universities Association  
Terra State Community College  
Texas Association for College Admission Counseling  
Texas Tech University System  
The Active Advocacy Coalition  
The Bobby R. Larkin, Sr. Charitable Association, Inc.  
The College of New Rochelle

## Student Aid Support Letter

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The College of Saint Rose  
The Community College of Rhode Island  
The Connecticut Conference of Independent Colleges  
The Council of New Jersey State College Locals  
The Education Trust  
The EnCompass Program, De La Salle, Inc.  
The Institute for College Access & Success  
The Noble Network of Charter Schools  
The Ohio Association of College Admission Counseling  
The Ohio Student Association  
The Resurrection Project  
The Sage Colleges  
The Scholarship Foundation of St. Louis  
The State University of New York  
The State University of New York at Albany  
The State University of New York at Geneseo  
The State University of New York at Potsdam  
The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga  
The University of Toledo  
The West Contra Costa Public Education Fund  
Thomas More College  
Tiffin University  
Tillamook Bay Community College  
Transylvania University  
Trevecca Nazarene University  
Trinity College  
Trinity Washington University  
Trocaire College  
U.S. Public Interest Research Group  
uAspire  
UNCF  
Union College (KY)  
Union Institute & University  
United Faculty of Miami Dade College  
United States Student Association  
United University Professions  
United Way Suncoast  
University of California Student Association  
University of California, Berkeley  
University of California, Riverside  
University of Cincinnati  
University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus  
University of Colorado Boulder  
University of Colorado Denver  
University of Dayton  
University of Evansville

## Student Aid Support Letter

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University of Illinois at Chicago  
University of Illinois at Springfield  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
University of Kansas  
University of Maryland  
University of Maryland, Baltimore County  
University of Michigan  
University of Michigan-Flint  
University of Michigan-Dearborn  
University of Missouri Graduate Professional Council  
University of Missouri System  
University of New Hampshire  
University of Northwestern-St Paul  
University of Northwestern Ohio  
University of Rochester  
University of San Diego  
University of Southern Maine Student Government Association  
University of St. Francis  
University of the Southwest  
University of Virginia  
University of Washington  
University of Washington GEAR UP  
University Settlement, Inc.  
Utica College  
Valley City State University  
Vanderbilt University  
Vassar College  
Vaughn College of Aeronautics and Technology  
Vermont Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators  
Vermont Law School  
Victoria College  
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University  
Volunteer State Community College  
Waco Foundation  
Walla Walla University  
Warner Pacific College  
Warner University  
Wartburg College  
Washington Campus Compact  
Washington Consortium for the Liberal Arts  
Washington Public Interest Research Group  
Washington State Board for Community and Technical Colleges  
Washington State University  
Washington Student Association  
Washington University in St. Louis  
Waukegan to College

Student Aid Support Letter

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Wayne State University  
Webb Institute  
Weber State University  
Wells College  
West Contra Costa Public Education Fund  
West Kentucky Community and Technical College  
Western Association of College Admissions Counseling  
Western Technical College  
Western Washington University  
Westmont College  
Whitworth University  
Wilberforce University  
Wilburton Public Schools  
Williams College  
Wilmington College  
Wisconsin Association of Independent Colleges and Universities  
Wittenberg University  
Women's College Coalition  
Work Colleges Consortium  
Wyman  
Wyoming Community College Commission  
Xavier University  
Xavier University of Louisiana  
Yale University  
Yes We Must Coalition  
Young Invincibles