



July 20, 2023

The Honorable Kay Granger
Chair
House Committee on Appropriations
H-307 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
House Committee on Appropriations
1036 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair Granger and Ranking Member DeLauro:

On behalf of the Student Aid Alliance (SAA), we write to express our deep concerns with the drastic cuts proposed in the fiscal year (FY) 2024 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies funding bill. We oppose the elimination of funding for the Federal Work-Study (FWS) program and the Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG) program. Together with the Pell Grant, these two programs provide access to college for millions of low-income students nationwide.

We understand the fiscal constraints imposed by the statutory spending total; however, the allocation for the Labor-HHS-Education Subcommittee is inequitably low. It is imperative that Congress work toward providing additional funding for non-defense discretionary programs as the FY 2024 process continues. Overall, this bill falls woefully short of what is in the best interest of students, and we strongly urge you to increase the funding levels for student aid during the full House Committee on Appropriations markup.

Earlier this year, we sent a letter with proposed funding levels for the financial aid programs directly impacting students. In our letter, we requested the following:

- \$13,000 maximum award for the Pell Grant;
- \$1.115 billion for FSEOG;
- \$1.555 billion for FWS;
- \$1.298 billion for the Federal TRIO Programs;
- \$410 million for the Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs; and
- \$35 million for the Graduate Assistance in Areas of National Need program.

We appreciate that the Pell Grant maximum was not cut and the Pell Grant surplus was preserved. However, if enacted, this would be the first year Congress did not provide an increase in this program since 2012. We strongly believe that Congress must continue to

invest in the Pell Grant program and the other student aid programs impacting low-income students.

As we have done before, we call on Congress to continue its bipartisan support of federal student aid programs. These programs play a vital role by providing a much-needed investment in our future leaders.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

SAA Steering Committee



Mark Becker
President, Association of Public and
Land-grant Universities



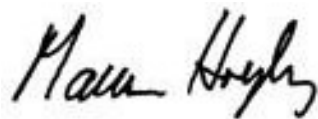
Walter G. Bumphus, Ph.D.
President and CEO, American Association of
Community Colleges



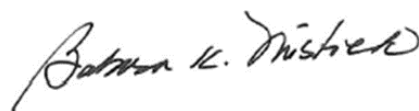
Justin Draeger
President, National Association of Student
Financial Aid Administrators



Dr. Mildred Garcia
President, American Association of State
Colleges and Universities



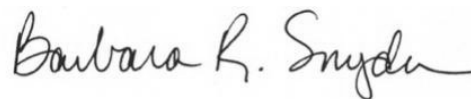
Maureen Hoyler
President, Council for Opportunity in
Education



Barbara K. Mistick
President, National Association of
Independent Colleges & Universities



Ted Mitchell
President, American Council on Education



Barbara R. Snyder
President, Association of American
Universities

Members of the Student Aid Alliance:

AACTE (American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education)

Achieving the Dream

ACPA-College Student Educators International

ACT

American Federation of Teachers

American Indian Higher Education Consortium (AIHEC)

APPA, "Leadership in Educational Facilities"

Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities

Association of Community College Trustees

Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges

Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities

CCCU - Council for Christian Colleges & Universities

Consortium of Universities of the Washington Metropolitan Area

Consortium on Financing Higher Education

Council of Independent Colleges

Council on Social Work Education

EDUCAUSE

NASPA-Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education

National Association for College Admission Counseling

National Association of College and University Business Officers

National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE)

National Association of State Student Grant & Aid Programs (NASSGAP)

National Council for Community and Education Partnerships (NCCEP)

National Education Association

Phi Beta Kappa Society

State Higher Education Executive Officers Association

UPCEA - Leaders in Professional, Continuing and Online Education

Work Colleges Consortium

Yes We Must Coalition