



September 9, 2019

The Honorable Roy Blunt
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and
Human Services, Education,
and Related Agencies
United States Senate
131 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and
Human Services, Education,
and Related Agencies
United States Senate
156 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Blunt and Ranking Member Murray,

We write on behalf of the Student Aid Alliance to thank you for your continued bipartisan support of the federal student aid programs—which combine grants, work-study, and loan programs—that help millions of students pay for college each year.

As you prepare to write the Senate version of the FY 2020 Labor-HHS-Education appropriations bill, we encourage you to fund the federal student aid programs at the levels provided in H. R. 2740, the House-passed version of the bill.

The increases provided in the House will restore funding to pre-sequester levels, ensuring that low- and middle-income college students receive additional grant and work-study aid, which can reduce or eliminate the need to borrow. In addition, increases for support services help students persist to graduation.

Enabling students to pursue and succeed in postsecondary education has significant benefits for our nation as a whole. A better-educated workforce means a stronger economy with lower unemployment, greater earnings, and less need for social services. Strengthening our economy requires vigorous postsecondary education engagement across a wide range of students, institutions and fields.

We call on Congress to continue its bipartisan support of federal student aid programs and enable low- and middle-income students to succeed. Thank you for considering our request. Without the strong partnership between the federal government, states,

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institutions, and families, millions of students would not be able to go to college.

Sincerely,



Ted Mitchell
Co-Chair



Barbara K. Mistick
Co-Chair