



September 29, 2023

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Speaker of the House
United States House of Representatives
H-232, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
Democratic Leader
United States House of Representatives
H-204, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker McCarthy and Democratic Leader Jeffries:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, we write to express our strong opposition to H.R. 5525, the Continuing Appropriations and Border Security Enhancement Act for fiscal year (FY) 2024. This continuing resolution (CR) includes an 8.13% reduction in spending across all agencies except Defense and Veterans Affairs.

A CR is preferable to the disruption caused by a government shutdown, but a CR should be exactly what it is intended to be, the continuation of funding at current levels. If enacted, H.R. 5525 will only cause confusion and drastically reduce funding to students and institutions of higher education. Operating under a CR also creates a level of uncertainty for institutions of higher education when it comes to things such as packaging financial aid awards and operating federally funded programs.

We urgently call on Congress to work together to enact appropriations measures that, at the very least, keep the government funded at the agreed upon levels in the Fiscal Responsibility Act. Should a CR be the best path forward in the interim, we strongly recommend that the funding levels remain the same as FY 2023.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ted Mitchell". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "T" and "M".

Ted Mitchell
President

On behalf of:

American Association of Community Colleges
American Association of State Colleges and Universities
American Council on Education
Association of American Universities
Association of Public and Land-grant Universities
National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities