

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

[[DATE]]

Chair Rosa DeLauro
House Appropriations Committee
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, and Education
2368-B Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Ranking Member Tom Cole
House Appropriations Subcommittee
on Labor, Health and Human
Services, and Education
2358-B Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman DeLauro and Ranking Member Cole:

As you work to develop the Fiscal Year 2023 (FY23) Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations bill, we request your continued support for the Campus-Based Student Financial Aid Programs in Title IV of the *Higher Education Act*. The Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (SEOG), and Federal Work Study (FWS) programs work together with Pell Grants and Direct Student Loans to provide a manageable balance of grants, loans and work to ensure students from all backgrounds can pursue a rewarding academic path.

To support the continued success of our nation's students and bring funding for campus-based aid to inflation adjusted pre-sequester funding levels, we respectfully request that the SEOG program be funded at \$1.061 billion, and that the FWS program be funded at \$1.48 billion. These programs are an important means to supporting low-income students finance their degrees and these funding levels send a strong message that we are committed to their academic success.

SEOG provides up to \$4,000 in grants to low- and middle-income students and funds programs that help at-risk students get into and stay in college. Providing low-income students with grant aid, rather than only providing loans, helps keep them in school and focused on reaching their full potential. With similar long-term benefits, FWS provides a wide variety of job opportunities on campus for students to work to cover part of their tuition. Having a part-time job on campus is a proven method of keeping low-income students engaged in their campus community, while completing their degree on time, a fundamental goal of federal student aid.

Campus-based aid programs are the original federal partnerships in higher education. They were created as an incentive for institutions to partner with the federal government to support qualified low-income students attending college. Furthermore, the program requires that schools provide a 25 percent minimum match in most cases, ensuring they have a financial incentive to promote student success. Many institutions go above and beyond the requirement, especially in grant aid. As Congress continues to address the unanticipated costs of the COVID-19 pandemic, we must continue to support our institutions and the students they serve.

Thank you for considering this important request and for your continued leadership in supporting federal student aid programs that help millions of students nationwide realize higher education.

[[CLOSING]]

[[SIGNATURES]]