



July 28, 2023

The Honorable Kay Granger
Chairwoman
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
H-307, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

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

Dear Chairwoman Granger and Ranking Member DeLauro,

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, we write to share our deep concerns regarding the funding levels proposed in the fiscal year (FY) 2024 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies (Labor-HHS-Education) funding bill. The programs in this bill are vital to the success of our students, institutions, and the economic health of our nation.

As you prepare to consider the Labor-HHS-Education appropriations bill in full committee, we ask that the subcommittee allocation be set to the highest level possible under the current statutory cap. We are concerned that if the committee does not utilize all available budgetary authority, education programs will be cut to a degree that low-income students will have much greater difficulty affording college, and some might not be able to attend at all. We ask that you increase the funding levels to continue the much-needed investment in our students and the institutions that serve them.

While we appreciate that the Pell Grant maximum award was not cut, and that funding previously provided by Congress for the Pell Grant was protected in the subcommittee mark, the maximum Pell Grant should be increased to meet the financial needs of our students. The Pell Grant program is the cornerstone of federal financial aid, and we highly encourage Congress to continue to invest in this vital program that serves more than 6 million low- and middle-income students.

While the full funding levels for the various programs impacted by the Labor-HHS-Education funding bill have not been made public, we are concerned about the information that has been released thus far. Specifically, we strongly oppose the elimination of funding for the Federal Work-Study and the Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant programs. Together with the Pell Grant, these two programs provide the support needed for millions of low- and middle-income students to be able to attend college and earn a degree. We are deeply concerned such cuts will inhibit access to higher education and interrupt the path to degree completion for students presently enrolled.

In addition, we oppose the proposed elimination of funding for the Child Care Access Means Parents in School program; the Augustus F. Hawkins Centers of Excellence program; the Teacher Quality Partnerships program; the Graduate Assistance in Areas of National Need program; the elimination of the Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), Tribal Colleges and Universities, and Minority-Serving Institutions' Research and Development Infrastructure Grant program; the reduction of funding for Title VI International Education; and the reduction of funding to the Institute of Education Sciences. Furthermore, we oppose other apparent deep reductions to critical programs supported by our institutions and join with the Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research in opposing the proposed \$3.8 billion cut to base funding for the National Institutes of Health and Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health, which will only create unnecessary roadblocks to strengthening America's biomedical research capabilities and innovations that improve the lives of every American.¹

While they do not begin to balance the unprecedented cuts proposed elsewhere in this bill, we appreciate that funding for the Federal TRIO programs, Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs, and the Strengthening Community College Training Grant program were not cut. In addition, we offer support for the additional \$10 million in funding for HBCUs that are community or junior colleges.

We urge Congress to increase the federal funding allocations in the full committee markup for the FY24 Labor-HHS-Education funding bill to the highest levels possible given available budgetary authority. An investment in our nation's students, institutions, and research is an investment in our nation's future. Thank you for your time and attention to this request.

Sincerely,



Ted Mitchell
President

On behalf of:

Achieving the Dream
ACPA-College Student Educators International
American Association of Colleges and Universities
American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education
American Association of Colleges of Nursing

¹ The Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research. (2023, July 13). *Ad Hoc Group Statement on NIH Funding in the Draft House Labor-HHS Appropriations Bill for FY2024* [Press release]. <https://www.aamc.org/research/adhocgp/07.13.23PressStatement.pdf>

American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers
American Association of Community Colleges
American Association of State Colleges and Universities
American Council on Education
American Indian Higher Education Consortium
APPA, "Leadership in Educational Facilities"
Association of American Medical Colleges
Association of American Universities
Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities
Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges
Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities
Association of Public and Land-grant Universities
Association of Research Libraries
Campus Compact
Coalition of Urban and Metropolitan Universities (CUMU)
College and University Professional Association for Human Resources
Council for Opportunity in Education
Council on Social Work Education
EDUCAUSE
National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education
National Association of College and University Business Officers
National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE)
National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities
National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators
Phi Beta Kappa Society
State Higher Education Executive Officers Association