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Leadership and Advocacy

March 29, 2018

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

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

Dear Chairman Blunt and Ranking Member Murray,

On behalf of the American Council on Education (ACE), a membership organization representing nearly 1,800 colleges, universities, and higher education organizations, I write to thank you for your support for research and education in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 Omnibus. The bill's increases will expand access and encourage completion for our students, while also funding important research at our institutions on issues of national importance.

We are especially grateful for the \$175 increase to the maximum Pell Grant, which will help over seven million low-income families access postsecondary education. We appreciate the increases provided for the campus-based aid programs Federal Work Study and Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants (SEOG), actions that reinforce the importance of these programs as Congress considers reauthorization of the Higher Education Act. We applaud the \$3 billion increase included for the National Institutes of Health, which will grow the number of young investigators and allow for more grants in support of important biomedical research. And we recognize the funding provided for numerous other important programs that provide student aid, prepare students to succeed in higher education, perform critical scientific research, and support minority-serving institutions and we thank you for strengthening them.

We are pleased that in this difficult fiscal climate, Congress was able to work together in a bipartisan manner to maintain support, and in many instances increase funding, for these important programs. We look forward to continuing to work with you as you turn your attention to the FY 2019 appropriations process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ted Mitchell", written in a cursive style.

Ted Mitchell
President