

Student Aid Alliance

December 5, 2019

Rep. Nita Lowey
Chairwoman
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
H-307, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Rep. Kay Granger
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Sen. Richard Shelby
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
S-128, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

Sen. Patrick Leahy
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
S-146A, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairs Lowey and Shelby and Ranking Members Granger and Leahy,

We write on behalf of the Student Aid Alliance to request that you prioritize the federal student aid programs as you resolve the FY 2020 Labor-HHS-Education appropriations bill.

While we understand the challenges in resolving differences between the bills offered in the House and Senate, we urge you to meet the levels provided in the House bill. Funding at these levels will restore appropriations 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.

This benefits not just students and their families, but our nation overall. A well-educated workforce drives a stronger, more competitive economy and reduces demand for other government services. For these reasons, support for these programs provides both an immediate, and a long-term, return on the federal investment.

We thank Congress for its historic, bipartisan support of federal student aid programs and

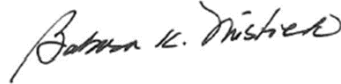
FY20 Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations
December 5, 2019

call on your committees to continue the strong partnership between the federal government, states, institutions and families in the final FY20 Labor-HHS-Education appropriations bill.

Sincerely,



Ted Mitchell
Co-Chair



Barbara K. Mistick
Co-Chair