

February 14, 2018

Honorable Rodney Frelinghuysen
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
H-305, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Honorable Nita Lowey
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
H-305, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Senator Thad Cochran
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Room S128, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Patrick Leahy
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Room S128, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairmen Frelinghuysen and Cochran and Ranking Members Lowey and Leahy:

On behalf of the associations listed below, representing college leaders, educators and professionals, we write regarding the allocation you will provide for the Labor-HHS-Education and Related Agencies appropriations bill for Fiscal Year 2018 (FY18).

As you determine how best to allocate the funding under your committees' discretion, we write to ask that you maintain Congress's historic commitment to student financial aid and medical research. The recent agreement to raise the overall funding caps for FY18 and FY19 provides your committees with the ability to address longstanding needs in these areas by increasing appropriations for programs such as Pell Grants and agencies such as the National Institutes of Health. To meet the identified needs these programs have, it is important that the Labor-HHS-Education and Related Agencies subcommittee be provided the largest possible allocation.

The importance of these areas was recognized by Congress in the Bipartisan Budget Act, which provided funding specifically targeted to the NIH and for college affordability. This additional funding speaks to Congress' long-standing recognition that these are among the most prudent investments the federal government makes. Federal support for greater postsecondary attainment and for medical research results in a stronger economy and a better standard of living.

By providing a strong allocation for the FY18 Labor-HHS-Education and Related Agencies appropriations bill, you will ensure that students will continue to be afforded the opportunity

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to pursue their educations, and that researchers will remain able to pursue the medical and technological advances that benefit the lives of every American.

Sincerely,

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

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 Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges
Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities
National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities