

May 3, 2017

Representative Paul Ryan  
Speaker of the House  
United States House of Representatives  
Room H-305, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

Representative Nancy Pelosi  
Minority Leader  
United States House of Representatives  
Room H-204, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

Senator Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Room S-230, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Chuck Schumer  
Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
Room S-221, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Ryan, Leader Pelosi, Leader McConnell and Leader Schumer:

On behalf of the undersigned associations, we write to express our strong support for passage of H.R. 244, the Fiscal Year 2017 Consolidated Appropriations Act. We are particularly appreciative that the bill includes the restoration of year-round Pell Grants and a significant increase for the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Across the board, this bill provides needed funding in the programs that educate American students, drive technological innovation, strengthen our economy and build opportunity.

The restoration of year-round Pell Grants will allow the program to meet the needs of America's students. By providing approximately one million students with an average of \$1,650 in additional grant funding if they are enrolled throughout the year, this provision will accelerate their time to degree and allow them to enter the workforce sooner. While we are concerned with the possible impact the rescission of existing program funds will have on the program, we appreciate the constraints this bill was produced under and the greater overall good provided by expanding the benefits for deserving students.

The bill also includes a \$2 billion increase for the NIH, including \$352 million provided in the 21st Century Cures Act. In combination with existing funding, this will greatly enhance the capability of the institutes to pursue the cutting-edge medical and scientific research that leads to new cures, promising areas of treatments and the development of new technologies that meaningfully improve the lives of every American.

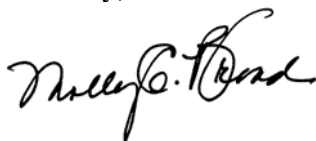
Beyond these two critical programs, we are grateful to see the preservation or expansion of numerous other programs in the areas of student aid, scientific research and institutional support. Increases for TRIO and GEAR UP will mean more, and better-prepared, low-income students in college. Increased support for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the Department of Energy, the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities, among many others, will strengthen our research capabilities and enhance our ability to compete internationally.

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Continued support for key programs such as Federal Work-Study, Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants and the programs supporting Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Hispanic-Serving Institutions, Tribal Colleges and Universities and many more will help ensure that all students are able to pursue and achieve their academic and economic goals.

We thank Congress for the commitment they've demonstrated to students, educators, researchers and institutions, and we look forward to seeing this legislation enacted.

Sincerely,



Molly Corbett Broad  
President

CC: Rep. Rodney Frelinghuysen, Rep. Nita Lowey, Sen. Thad Cochran and Sen. Patrick Leahy

On behalf of:

ACPA—College Student Educators International  
American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education  
American Association of Colleges of Nursing  
American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers  
American Association of Community Colleges  
American Association of State Colleges and Universities  
American Association of University Professors  
American Council on Education  
American Dental Education Association  
American Indian Higher Education Consortium  
Association of American Medical Colleges  
Association of American Universities  
Association of Community College Trustees  
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  
College and University Professional Association for Human Resources  
Council for Advancement and Support of Education  
Council for Christian Colleges and Universities  
Council for Opportunity in Education  
Council of Graduate Schools  
Council of Independent Colleges  
Council on Governmental Relations  
Educational Testing Service  
EDUCAUSE  
Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities  
NAFSA: Association of International Educators  
NASPA - Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education  
National Association for College Admission Counseling

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National Association of College and University Business Officers

National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities

National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators

National Association of System Heads

National Council for Community and Education Partnerships

National Council of University Research Administrators

UNCF