



Leadership and Advocacy

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June 7, 2017

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

Honorable Diane Black
Chairman
Committee on the Budget
United States House of Representatives
207 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Honorable John Yarmuth
Ranking Member
Committee on the Budget
United States House of Representatives
134 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Senator Mike Enzi
Chairman
Committee on the Budget
United States Senate
624 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Bernie Sanders
Ranking Member
Committee on the Budget
United States Senate
624 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairs Frelinghuysen, Cochran, Black and Enzi and Ranking Members Lowey, Leahy, Yarmuth and Sanders:

On behalf of the associations listed below, representing college leaders, educators and professionals, we write regarding the current status of federal funding for Fiscal Year 2018 (FY18).

As you well know, FY18 discretionary spending caps are currently subject to sequester-level cuts. Without a statutory correction, such as was provided for FY16 and FY17 in the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015, FY18 non-defense discretionary funding will be reduced by \$3 billion below the FY17 level. Despite the support of Congress over the last few years, many of

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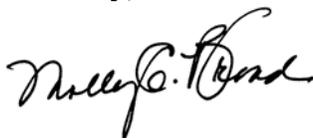
the student aid and scientific research programs remain below their FY11 funding levels when adjusted for inflation. A reduction of this magnitude would disproportionately harm the programs that are proven to provide the most effective pathways for low-income and other working Americans to move up the economic ladder and build and maintain economic prosperity. Consequently, we urge your committees to work with Congressional leaders to alleviate the FY18 sequester level discretionary spending caps. Doing so would enable your committees to meet or exceed the current funding levels for student aid and scientific research programs.

Just last month, Congress finalized a FY17 omnibus appropriations measure that expanded the Pell Grant program for low- and middle-income students and provided \$2 billion in additional funding for biomedical research at the National Institutes of Health (NIH). These increases, among other increases and continued funding support for critical student aid and scientific research programs, illustrated the strong bipartisan support that exists for these programs. Moreover, the increases represented a clear understanding of the central role student aid and scientific research programs play in our country. These programs are engines of social mobility. They provide access to quality jobs and better lives for millions of low- and middle-income Americans, while also producing the innovative advances that create new technologies, businesses, and the jobs that fuel our economy.

This stands in stark contrast to proposals recently offered by the Administration. Rather than providing the funds needed to build a skilled workforce and enable America to compete on the world stage, the Administration's budget would instead cut more than \$150 billion from student aid programs, leaving students to borrow more to access college and to pay more for those loans. The Administration's budget proposes to eliminate billions in research funding, including \$7.2 billion at NIH, reversing the investment Congress just made. That cut is coupled with massive cuts at many other research agencies, with early analysis indicating an overall cut to research funding of 17 percent.

As your committees take action on the FY18 budget and appropriations processes, we ask you to maintain Congress's historic commitment to student financial aid and scientific research and that you reject the Administration proposed funding levels for these programs. We have faith that the members of your committees will work to ensure that students continue to be afforded the opportunity 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,



Molly Corbett Broad
President

Fiscal Year 2018 Federal Funding
June 7, 2017

On behalf of:

ACPA--College Student Educators International
ACT
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 Council on Education
American Dental Education Association
American Indian Higher Education Consortium
Association of American Colleges and Universities
Association of American Medical Colleges
Association of American Universities
Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities
Association of Community College Trustees
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 & 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 & Universities
NAFSA: Association of International Educators
NASPA - Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education
National Association for College Admission Counseling
National Association of College and University Business Officers
National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities
National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators
UPCEA - University Professional and Continuing Education Association