



October 30, 2013

The Honorable Patty Murray
Senate Budget Committee
U. S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Committee on the Budget
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Ryan and Chairman Murray:

On behalf of the more than 60 organizations in the Student Aid Alliance, we ask you to support the federal student aid programs in the FY 2014 House and Senate budget conference. As you work with your colleagues to reconcile the differences between the two budgets, please keep in mind that today's college students represent the future of our economy. Helping low-income students pay for college is one of the most important investments we can make in our country.

To keep Pell Grants, student loans, campus-based aid, early intervention programs, and graduate education strong, funding for non-defense discretionary appropriations should be set at the highest level possible. We support repealing the sequester, as it has disproportionately impacted non-defense discretionary programs. The sequester slashed education funding to FY 2004 levels, making college more expensive for the very students who struggle most to afford it.

More specifically, federal student aid programs have been cut by more than \$23 billion since FY 2011. Pell Grant eligibility has been narrowed; the LEAP Program has been eliminated; across-the-board cuts have whittled down campus-based aid, TRIO, GEAR UP and graduate education; and student loans costs have increased. These programs cannot be cut any more. Low-income students should not bear the burden of deficit reduction.

Federal support for student aid is directly paid back to society by a more highly skilled workforce, lower unemployment, less dependence on government assistance, and increased global competitiveness.

We urge you to support the federal student aid programs in any budget agreement you may reach.

Sincerely,

Molly Corbett Broad
Co-Chairman

David Warren
Co-Chairman



2013 Members

AACRAO: American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers
Alliance for Excellent Education
American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education
American Association of Colleges of Nursing
American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine
American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy
American Association of Community Colleges
American Association of State Colleges and Universities
American Council on Education
American Dental Education Association
American Federation of Teachers
American Indian Higher Education Consortium
American Society for Engineering Education
American Student Association of Community Colleges
APPA
Association of Advanced Rabbinical and Talmudic Schools
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Association of American Universities
Association of Community College Trustees
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Association of Public and Land-grant Universities
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Coalition of Higher Education Assistance Organization
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Council for Christian Colleges and Universities
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Council of Graduate Schools
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Educational Testing Service
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NAFSA: Association of International Educators

NASSGAP Federal Relations Committee
National Association for College Admission Counseling
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National Association of College and University Business Officers
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National Association of Graduate and Professional Students
National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities
National Association of State Student Grant and Aid Programs
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National Council for Community and Education Partnerships
National Council of Higher Education Loan Programs, Inc.
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National Education Association
New York Higher Education Services Corp.
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
The California State University
The College Board
The Fashion Institute of Design & Merchandising
The Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities
The National Collegiate Athletic Association
The Ohio State University
Thurgood Marshall College Fund
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United States Student Association
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University of California
University of Maryland System
University of Michigan
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Utah Valley State College
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Women's College Coalition
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