

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 24, 2016

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
2358-B Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
2358-B Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

As you work to develop the Fiscal Year (FY) 2017 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations bill, we request your continued support for the Campus-Based Student Financial Aid Programs in Title IV of the *Higher Education Act*. The Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (SEOG), Federal Work Study (FWS), and Perkins Loans programs work together with Pell Grants and Direct Student Loans to provide low-income students a manageable balance of grants, loans and work to help pay for college.

We request that the SEOG program be funded at \$757 million, and that the FWS program be funded at \$1 billion. We further ask that the Perkins Loan program, which has been extended through September 30, 2017, maintain its funding so that its structure can be fully considered during the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act.

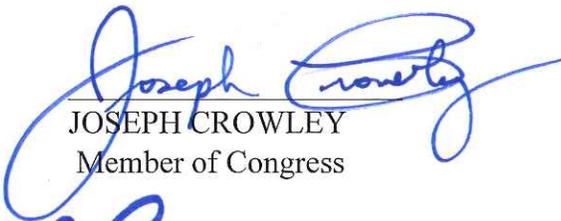
Campus-based aid programs are the original federal partnerships in higher education. They were created as an incentive for institutions to partner with the federal government to support qualified low-income students attending college. Current federal investment generates more than \$3 billion in grant, work and loan opportunities to ensure students can go to the college that is the best fit for them. While institutions are required to provide a 25 percent match to federal dollars, many institutions go above and beyond the requirement, especially in grant aid.

SEOG provides up to \$4,000 in grant aid for the poorest Pell Grant students. Providing low-income students with grant aid, rather than loans, helps keep them in school and persist to completion. With similar long-term benefits, FWS provides a wide variety of job opportunities on campus, for students to work to cover part of their tuition. Having a job on campus is a proven method of keeping low-income students engaged as part of the campus community and completing their degree on time.

In tough budget times, the campus-based aid programs have become targets for cuts because their funding is relatively small compared to the Pell Grant program. However, the aid they provide to low-income students could not be made up wholly through Pell Grants, and would result in additional borrowing to pay for college and additional debt for students and their families.

Thank you for your continued bipartisan support of federal student aid programs.

Sincerely,



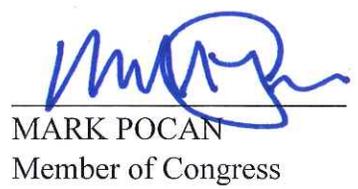
JOSEPH CROWLEY
Member of Congress



RICHARD L. HANNA
Member of Congress



LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER
Member of Congress



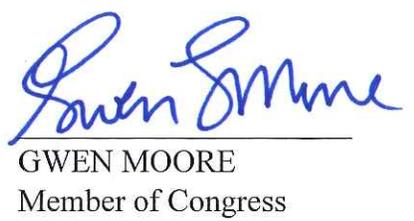
MARK POCAN
Member of Congress



SHEILA JACKSON LEE
Member of Congress



JOE COURTNEY
Member of Congress



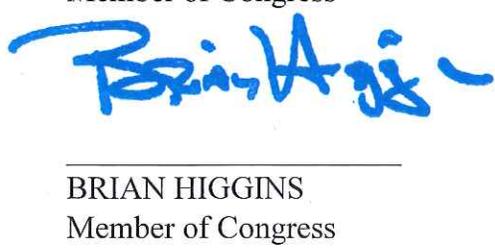
GWEN MOORE
Member of Congress



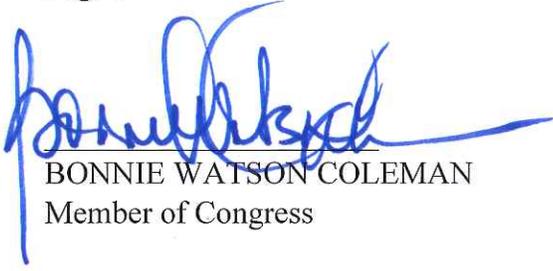
MATT CARTWRIGHT
Member of Congress



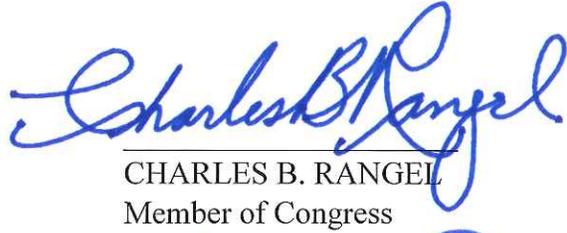
JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY
Member of Congress



BRIAN HIGGINS
Member of Congress



BONNIE WATSON COLEMAN
Member of Congress



CHARLES B. RANGEL
Member of Congress



MARK TAKANO
Member of Congress



SANDER M. LEVIN
Member of Congress



FREDERICA S. WILSON
Member of Congress



JERROLD NADLER
Member of Congress



PAUL TONKO
Member of Congress



JOAQUIN CASTRO
Member of Congress



BILL PASCRELL, JR.
Member of Congress



JACKIE SPEIER
Member of Congress



MAXINE WATERS
Member of Congress



DONALD M. PAYNE, JR.
Member of Congress



ELIOT L. ENGEL
Member of Congress



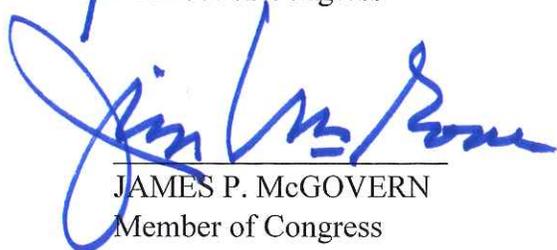
YVETTE D. CLARKE
Member of Congress



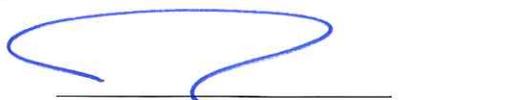
STEPHEN F. LYNCH
Member of Congress



BRENDA L. LAWRENCE
Member of Congress



JAMES P. McGOVERN
Member of Congress



JOHN K. DELANEY
Member of Congress



SUZAN K. DELBENE
Member of Congress



ERIC SWALWELL
Member of Congress



RON KIND
Member of Congress



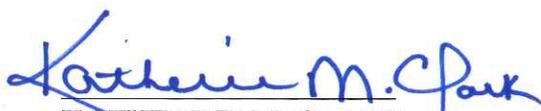
TONY CARDENAS
Member of Congress



NIKI TSONGAS
Member of Congress



STEVE COHEN
Member of Congress



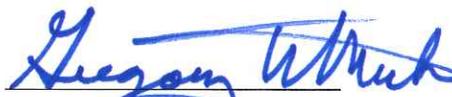
KATHERINE M. CLARK
Member of Congress



SUSAN A. DAVIS
Member of Congress



DIANA DeGETTE
Member of Congress



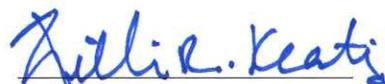
GREGORY W. MEEKS
Member of Congress


MIKE QUIGLEY
Member of Congress



DANNY K. DAVIS
Member of Congress


DEBBIE DINGELL
Member of Congress


WILLIAM R. KEATING
Member of Congress


RICHARD E. NEAL
Member of Congress


PETER A DeFAZIO
Member of Congress


KYRSTEN SINEMA
Member of Congress


KAREN BASS
Member of Congress


AMI BERA
Member of Congress


KATHLEEN M. RICE
Member of Congress


ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON
Member of Congress


HAKEEM S. JEFFRIES
Member of Congress


STACEY E PLASKETT
Member of Congress

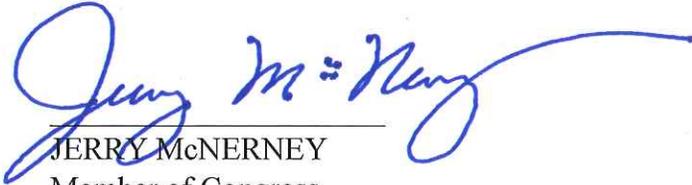

RUBÉN HINOJOSA
Member of Congress



PETER WELCH
Member of Congress



RAÚL M. GRIJALVA
Member of Congress



JERRY McNERNEY
Member of Congress



NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ
Member of Congress



MARK DeSAULNIER
Member of Congress



TED W. LIEU
Member of Congress



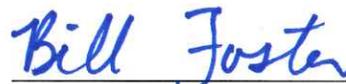
GRACE MENG
Member of Congress



STEVE CHABOT
Member of Congress



JOHN KATKO
Member of Congress



BILL FOSTER
Member of Congress



DONNA F. EDWARDS
Member of Congress



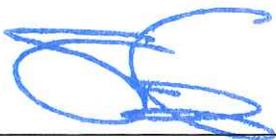
MICHAEL E. CAPUANO
Member of Congress



MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM
Member of Congress



FRANK PALLONE, JR.
Member of Congress



SEAN PATRICK MALONEY

Member of Congress



MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

Member of Congress



CHRISTOPHER P. GIBSON

Member of Congress



CAROLYN B. MALONEY

Member of Congress



ANN McLANE KUSTER

Member of Congress



G. K. BUTTERFIELD

Member of Congress



TIMOTHY J. WALZ

Member of Congress



DORIS O. MATSUI

Member of Congress