

Student Aid Alliance

November 17, 2014

Representative Harold Rogers
Chair
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Senator Barbara Mikulski
Chair
Appropriations Committee
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Representative Nita Lowey
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Senator Richard Shelby
Vice-Chair
Appropriations Committee
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairs and Ranking Members:

As you move to finalize Fiscal Year 2015 appropriations, we write to urge you to enact an omnibus bill that protects the vital student aid programs funded through the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies appropriations bill. The millions of students, educators, administrators and college presidents we represent appreciate the committee's effort to restore many of the funding cuts imposed by sequestration.

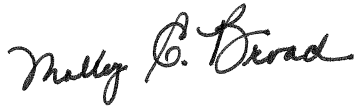
Unfortunately, this was an exception to several years of substantial cuts to student aid. Since 2011, more than \$23 billion in financial aid has been eliminated, and over \$5.6 billion of this has been used solely for deficit reduction. This has meant a reduction in Pell Grant eligibility; the elimination of the LEAP Program; cuts to Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants, Federal Work-Study, TRIO, GEAR UP and graduate education; and an increase in the cost to borrow student loans.

Our economy depends on developing skilled workers who can effectively compete in a challenging global marketplace. Postsecondary education is the means to achieving this, and student aid is what opens the door to college for low- and middle-income students. The FY15 appropriations bills offer Congress the opportunity to begin addressing these challenges, and to

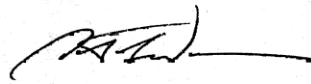
move toward greater competitiveness, productivity and economic growth through a better educated workforce.

We urge you to support the student aid programs and build on last year's bipartisan efforts to restore funding for these critical programs in the FY15 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies appropriations bill.

Sincerely,



Molly Corbett Broad
Co-Chairman



David Warren
Co-Chairman



2014 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 Student Association of Community 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
Coalition of Higher Education Assistance Organization
Columbia University
Consortium of Universities of the Washington Metropolitan Area
Council for Higher Education Accreditation
Council for Opportunity in Education
Council of Graduate Schools
Council of Independent Colleges
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Harvard University
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Michigan State University
NASSGAP Federal Relations Committee
National Association for College Admission Counseling
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National Association of College and University Business Officers
National Association of College Stores
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National Association of State Student Grant and Aid Programs
National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators
National Association of Student Personnel Administrators
National College Access Network
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The Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities
The National Collegiate Athletic Association
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UNCF
United States Student Association
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University of Maryland System
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University of Southern California
University of Washington
Utah Valley State College
Vanderbilt University