



Leadership and Advocacy

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October 24, 2016

Honorable Harold Rogers
Chairman
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

Honorable Nita Lowey
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Senator Barbara Mikulski
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Room S-146A, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairmen Rogers and Cochran and Ranking Members Lowey and Mikulski:

As your committees resolve the differences between your respective appropriations bills, we write to express our strong support for the restoration of Year-Round Pell Grants in the Fiscal Year 2017 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies appropriations bill, however it is incorporated into final FY17 funding legislation.

Pell Grants are critically important to ensuring access to postsecondary education for nearly eight million low- and middle-income students who depend on them to pursue their educations. In the last decade, benefits and eligibility for Pell Grants were repeatedly cut in response to funding shortfalls. This has resulted in hundreds of thousands of students losing their eligibility entirely, and others seeing their awards reduced. The loss of year-round Pell Grants after documented successes with the program was particularly troublesome.

As you are well aware, Year-Round Pell enjoys broad bipartisan support in Congress, near-universal endorsement among policy experts, and was included in the Senate bill. Year-Round Pell Grants were eliminated because Congress had to address an \$11 billion shortfall in the program at the time, not because of opposition to the policy itself. Now that the program has a projected \$7.8 billion surplus in FY17, the time is right to reinstate this provision and broaden access and opportunity for America's students.

Encouraging all eligible students—no matter their credit accumulation or enrollment intensity—to attend college year-round will expedite time-to-degree, significantly lower opportunity costs, and allow more rapid entry into the workforce. The language in the Senate

FY17 Pell Grant Funding
October 24, 2016

bill achieves these ends. It would therefore be entirely fitting to use the available surplus funding to restore this crucial benefit to needy students and return dividends to the nation in the form of accelerated degree attainment across sectors.

We thank you for your attention to this critical issue, and urge you to support America's students and restore Year-Round Pell Grants in the final FY17 appropriations.

Sincerely,

Molly Corbett Broad



President

On behalf of:

ACPA - College Student Educators International
American Dental Education Association
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 Indian Higher Education Consortium
APPA - Leadership in Educational Facilities
Association of Academic Health Centers
Association of American Colleges & Universities
Association of American Universities
Association of Catholic Colleges and 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
Council for Christian Colleges and Universities
Council for Higher Education Accreditation
Council of Independent Colleges
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
National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education
National Association of College and University Business Officers

FY17 Pell Grant Funding
October 24, 2016

National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities
National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators
National Council for Community and Education Partnerships
Thurgood Marshall College Fund
UNCF
University Professional and Continuing Education Association