July 20, 2023

The Honorable Kay Granger  
Chair  
House Committee on Appropriations  
H-307 The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Appropriations  
1036 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair Granger and Ranking Member DeLauro:

On behalf of the Student Aid Alliance (SAA), we write to express our deep concerns with the drastic cuts proposed in the fiscal year (FY) 2024 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies funding bill. We oppose the elimination of funding for the Federal Work-Study (FWS) program and the Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG) program. Together with the Pell Grant, these two programs provide access to college for millions of low-income students nationwide.

We understand the fiscal constraints imposed by the statutory spending total; however, the allocation for the Labor-HHS-Education Subcommittee is inequitably low. It is imperative that Congress work toward providing additional funding for non-defense discretionary programs as the FY 2024 process continues. Overall, this bill falls woefully short of what is in the best interest of students, and we strongly urge you to increase the funding levels for student aid during the full House Committee on Appropriations markup.

Earlier this year, we sent a letter with proposed funding levels for the financial aid programs directly impacting students. In our letter, we requested the following:

- $13,000 maximum award for the Pell Grant;
- $1.115 billion for FSEOG;
- $1.555 billion for FWS;
- $1.298 billion for the Federal TRIO Programs;
- $410 million for the Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs; and
- $35 million for the Graduate Assistance in Areas of National Need program.

We appreciate that the Pell Grant maximum was not cut and the Pell Grant surplus was preserved. However, if enacted, this would be the first year Congress did not provide an increase in this program since 2012. We strongly believe that Congress must continue to
invest in the Pell Grant program and the other student aid programs impacting low-income students.

As we have done before, we call on Congress to continue its bipartisan support of federal student aid programs. These programs play a vital role by providing a much-needed investment in our future leaders.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

SAA Steering Committee

Mark Becker
President, Association of Public and Land-grant Universities

Walter G. Bumphus, Ph.D.
President and CEO, American Association of Community Colleges

Justin Draeger
President, National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators

Dr. Mildred Garcia
President, American Association of State Colleges and Universities

Maureen Hoyler
President, Council for Opportunity in Education

Barbara K. Mistick
President, National Association of Independent Colleges & Universities

Ted Mitchell
President, American Council on Education

Barbara R. Snyder
President, Association of American Universities
Members of the Student Aid Alliance:

AACTE (American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education)
Achieving the Dream
ACPA-College Student Educators International
ACT
American Federation of Teachers
American Indian Higher Education Consortium (AIHEC)
APPA, “Leadership in Educational Facilities”
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
CCCU - Council for Christian Colleges & Universities
Consortium of Universities of the Washington Metropolitan Area
Consortium on Financing Higher Education
Council of Independent Colleges
Council on Social Work Education
EDUCAUSE
NASPA-Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education
National Association for College Admission Counseling
National Association of College and University Business Officers
National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE)
National Association of State Student Grant & Aid Programs (NASSGAP)
National Council for Community and Education Partnerships (NCCEP)
National Education Association
Phi Beta Kappa Society
State Higher Education Executive Officers Association
UPCEA - Leaders in Professional, Continuing and Online Education
Work Colleges Consortium
Yes We Must Coalition