

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 25, 2017

The Honorable Roy Blunt
Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, and Education Appropriations
260 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, and Education Appropriations
154 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Blunt and Ranking Member Murray:

As you develop the fiscal year 2018 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies appropriations bill, we respectfully request the highest possible funding for the federal TRIO programs and urge you to reject the harmful cuts to the programs proposed in the President's budget request. Thanks to your Subcommittee's past support, millions of students from disadvantaged backgrounds have learned the skills they need to apply for, enroll in, afford, and complete college degrees.

TRIO serves low-income students, first-generation college students, and students with disabilities, including veterans and adult learners. The TRIO Programs have strong records of success in improving outcomes for these students, who enroll in and complete college degrees at higher rates than their peers. For those who would be the first members of their family to attend college, TRIO provides the college counseling, experiential learning, and application assistance critical to getting to and through college. TRIO students have access to academic tutoring, personal mentoring and advising, assistance with college transfer, and other retention services to help them reach graduation. Finally, TRIO helps adult learners, including former servicemen and women, balance higher education with the responsibilities of career and family.

Higher education is increasingly necessary to secure good-paying jobs in our 21st century economy, and TRIO plays a vital role in helping students climb up the ladder of economic mobility. Students and their families in our states often tell us that TRIO helped put a college education within reach or made the difference in helping them persist towards and complete their degrees. TRIO helps students break down barriers and pursue successful careers. In this way, the TRIO programs complement and support other critical federal financial aid programs like the Pell Grant.

The investment your Subcommittee makes in TRIO pays off in a well-educated workforce and improved economic mobility. We thank you for your past support, and look forward to working with you to continue strong funding in fiscal year 2018.

Sincerely,

Susan M. Collins Jon Tester Tammy Balch

Juwan Brown

Brian Schatz

Michael Bennet

Mark R. Warner

Debbie Stabenow

Jack Reed

Mazie Hirono

Dick Durbin

Shirley Stenehjem

Rohit Verma

Heidi Heitkamp

Tammy Duckworth

Tom Carper

Maria Cantwell

Ben Cadie

Jeanne Shaker

Paul Marchant

Amy Klobuchar

Dianne Feinstein

Maggie Hassan

Elizabeth Warren

Jeffrey A. Merkley

Al Franken

J. B.

Bob Sanders

Don Wyden

Walter

C. Men

August King

Chris Van Hollen

Chris Coons

Catherine Cortez Masto

Frank

Langston
