

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

March 12, 2020

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Chairwoman  
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 Tom Cole  
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 Chairwoman DeLauro and Ranking Member Cole:

As you work to develop the Fiscal Year 2021 (FY21) 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 a manageable balance of grants, loans and work to ensure students from all backgrounds can pursue a rewarding academic path.

To support the continued success of our nation's students and bring funding for campus-based aid to inflation adjusted pre-sequester funding levels, we respectfully request that the SEOG program be funded at \$1.052 billion, and that the FWS program be funded at \$1.467 billion. These programs are an important means to supporting low-income students finance their degrees and these funding levels send a strong message that we are committed to their academic success. We further ask that the Perkins Loan program be reauthorized and maintain its funding so that its structure can be fully considered during the reauthorization of the *Higher Education Act*.

Higher education provides immeasurable value to students and is one of the best investments a society can make. Yet, during tough budget times, the campus-based aid programs are looked upon as “duplicative” and routinely targeted for cuts given their relatively small size compared to the Pell Grant program. We urge you to prioritize strong funding for these critical programs and protect them from harmful cuts.

SEOG provides up to \$4,000 in grants to low- and middle-income students and funds programs that help at-risk students get into and stay in college. Providing low-income students with grant aid, rather than only providing loans, helps keep them in school and focused on reaching their full potential. 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 part-time job on campus is a proven method of keeping low-income students engaged in their campus community, while completing their degree on time, a fundamental goal of federal student aid.

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. Furthermore, the program requires that schools provide a 25 percent minimum match, ensuring they have a financial incentive to promote student success. Many institutions go above and beyond the requirement, especially in grant aid. We must continue to support our institutions and the students they serve.

Thank you for considering this important request and for your continued leadership in supporting federal student aid programs that help millions of students nationwide realize higher education.

Sincerely,

  
JOSEPH D. MORELLE  
Member of Congress

  
JOHN KATKO  
Member of Congress

  
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Member of Congress

  
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Member of Congress



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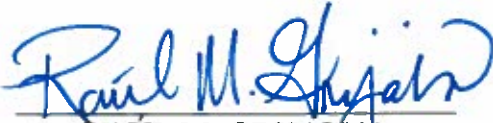
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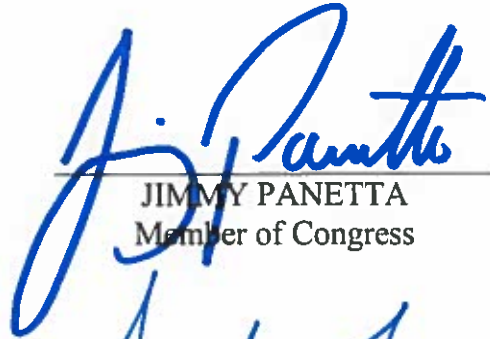
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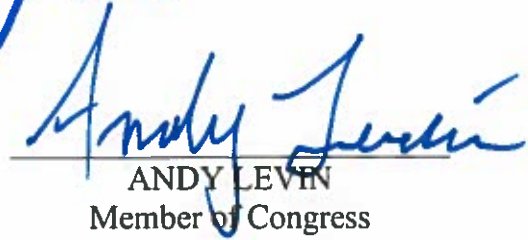
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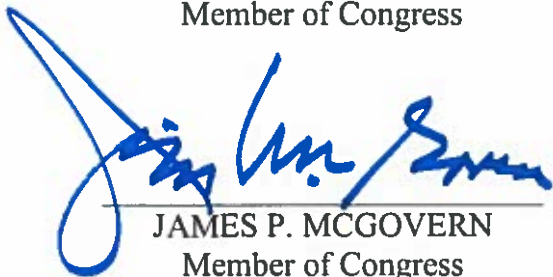
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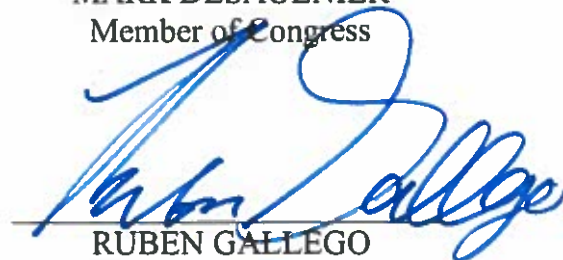
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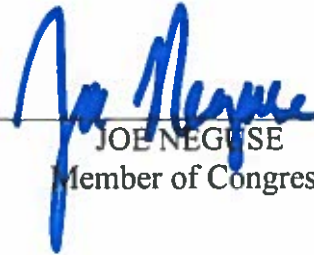
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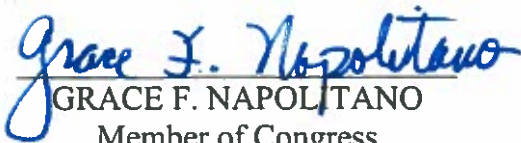
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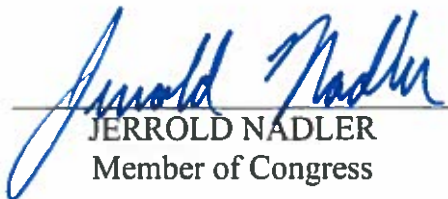
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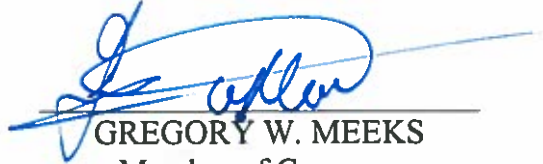
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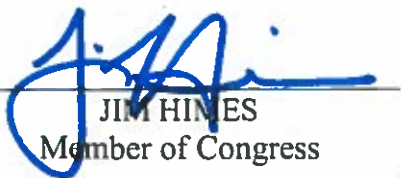
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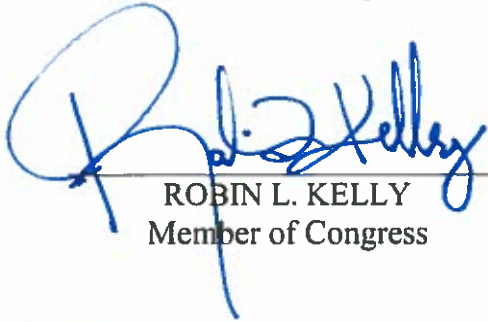
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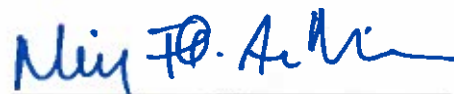
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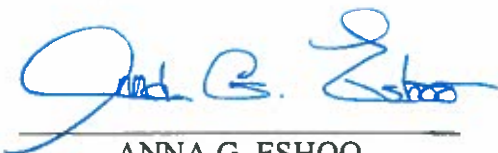
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EARL BLUMENAUER  
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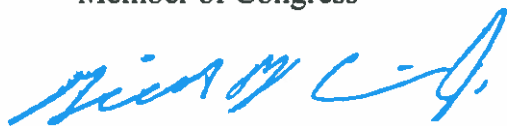
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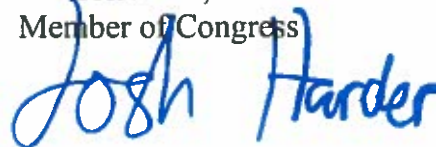
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