

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

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The Honorable Tammy Baldwin
Chair
Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Education
Appropriations Committee
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Education
Appropriations Committee
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chair Baldwin and Ranking Member Moore Capito:

As you work to develop the Fiscal Year 2024 (FY24) 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), and Federal Work Study (FWS) 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.

We request that the SEOG program receive \$1.1115 billion in FY24 through the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related agencies appropriations bill. The FY24 President's Budget included \$910 million for the SEOG program, which represents flat funding from the enacted amount in the *Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023*. 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. We ask for the FWS program to be funded at \$1.555 billion, a \$325 million increase over the President's Budget and FY23 funding amounts.

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 in most cases, ensuring they have a financial incentive to promote student success. Many institutions go above and beyond the requirement, especially in grant aid. As Congress continues to address the unanticipated costs of the COVID-19 pandemic, 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.

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