

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 25, 2022

The Honorable Patty Murray
Chairwoman
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee
on Labor, Health and Human Services,
Education, and Related Agencies
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Roy Blunt
Ranking Member
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee
on Labor, Health and Human Services,
Education, and Related Agencies
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairwoman Murray and Ranking Member Blunt:

As you develop the Fiscal Year 2023 (FY23) Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations bill, we urge you to continue providing strong 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 low-income students a manageable balance of grants, loans and work to help pay for college.

Considering the successful track record of these campus-based aid programs, we request that the SEOG program be funded at \$1.09 billion, an increase of \$195 million, and that the FWS program be funded at \$1.52 billion, an increase of \$310 million. These increases would bring funding for SEOG and FWS to inflation adjusted pre-sequester funding levels. 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.

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 programs require 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. We must continue to support our institutions and the students they serve.

SEOG provides up to \$4,000 in grant aid for Pell Grant recipients with the greatest financial need. Providing low-income students with additional grant aid, rather than only providing loans, helps keep them in school and on track to graduate. 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 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.

In tough budget times, the campus-based aid programs have become a lower priority because their funding is relatively small compared to the Pell Grant program. These programs enhance other sources of federal aid, such as Pell Grants, and the aid these programs provide to low-income students could not be made up through Pell Grants. Without the support these programs

provide, students and their families would need to borrow, or increase their borrowing, to pay for college.

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,


Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator


Jack Reed
United States Senator


Tim Kaine
United States Senator


Jon Ossoff
United States Senator