Dear Chair DeLauro and Ranking Member Cole:

We write to thank you for your strong support of the Federal TRIO Programs (TRIO) and to request that you continue to prioritize these programs in the fiscal year (FY) 2023 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations bill. In recent years, your Subcommittee has provided significant support for the TRIO programs and the students they serve: low-income, first-generation students, to include students with disabilities; homeless youth, students in or exiting foster care, military veterans; and adult learners. As you prepare your FY 2023 appropriations bill, we ask that, once again, you prioritize the academic, financial, and social supports provided by TRIO so that even more students can benefit from these life-changing services.

The COVID-19 crisis has ravaged every stage of our education system, thus making the need for targeted investments in TRIO all the more urgent. The National Student Clearinghouse Research Center reported that in fall 2021, there were 213,400 fewer college freshmen than pre-pandemic levels—a 9.2% drop. For students from high-poverty high schools, the immediate college enrollment rate fell even further, by a staggering 13% between 2019 and 2021. Without TRIO’s individualized counseling, advising, and support, we could lose an entire generation of low-income, first-generation students. Continuing to prioritize FY23 funding would allow TRIO to serve more students to prepare for, persist in, and graduate from college.

TRIO programs serve students from middle school through college graduation. Since their inception, TRIO programs have produced more than six million college graduates. Talent Search provides college outreach services to low-income middle and high school students. Upward Bound provides high school students with tutoring, mentoring and college counseling during the school year and a six-week residential college experience, all with the aim of improving college enrollment and attainment. Upward Bound Math-Science uses a similar model, with the goal of encouraging participants to pursue postsecondary degrees and careers in STEM fields. Student Support Services improves college retention and attainment for low-income, first-generation undergraduates and students with disabilities. The Ronald E. McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement Program provides undergraduates with opportunities for research, internships, seminars, and academic advising, with the goal of enabling students from
disadvantaged backgrounds to earn doctoral degrees. This year two TRIO programs are celebrating their 50th anniversary: Veterans Upward Bound provides academic tutoring and counseling to help support military veterans’ enrollment in and completion of postsecondary education; and Educational Opportunity Centers assist unemployed and low-income adults in re-entering the education pipeline.

We appreciate the Subcommittee’s continued commitment to TRIO. Given the programs’ proven success and the need to address higher education access, affordability, and completion, we respectfully request that you continue to prioritize funding for TRIO programs in FY 2023.

Sincerely,

Gwen S. Moore
Member of Congress

Christopher H. Smith
Member of Congress

Donald M. Payne, Jr.
Member of Congress

Vicky Hartzler
Member of Congress

Fred Upton
Member of Congress

Nikema Williams
Member of Congress

Salud Carbajal
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Trent Kelly
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Elise M. Stefanik
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Ruben Gallego
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David N. Cicilline
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Tom O'Halleran
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Jimmy Panetta
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Grace F. Napolitano
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Bobby L. Rush
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Bill Huizenga
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Carolyn B. Maloney
Member of Congress

Mary Gay Scanlon
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Juan Vargas
Member of Congress

Jerrold Nadler
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Jim Costa
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Suzan K. DelBene
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Mike Doyle
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Anthony Gonzalez
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Brian Higgins
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Katie Porter  
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Sean Casten  
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Robin L. Kelly  
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Yvette Herrell  
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Earl Blumenauer  
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Jesús G. "Chuy" García  
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Glenn "GT" Thompson  
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Brendan F. Boyle  
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Kaialii Kahele  
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Kathy E. Manning  
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Randy Feenstra  
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Cynthia Axne
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Jake Auchincloss
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Vicente Gonzalez  
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Richard E. Neal
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Marilyn Strickland
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Ron Kind
Member of Congress

Henry Cuellar
Member of Congress
Darren Soto  
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Elissa Slotkin  
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Chellie Pingree  
Member of Congress  

A. Donald McEachin  
Member of Congress  

Frank Mrván  
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Doris Matsui  
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Aumua Amata  
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Carlos A. Gimenez  
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Pete Stauber  
Member of Congress  

Mike Levin  
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Joseph D. Morelle
Member of Congress

Lee Zeldin
Member of Congress

Andy Barr
Member of Congress

Mike Kelly
Member of Congress

Jackie Speier
Member of Congress

Colin Z. Allred
Member of Congress

Liz Cheney
Member of Congress

Elaine G. Luria
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Barbara Lee
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Eddie Bernice Johnson
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Jason Crow  
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Steven Horsford  
Member of Congress

Madeleine Dean  
Member of Congress

Carolyn Bourdeaux  
Member of Congress

André Carson  
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C. A. Dutch Ruppersberger  
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Jack Bergman  
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Bradley Scott Schneider  
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Veronica Escobar  
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Sheila Jackson Lee  
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James Comer
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Karen Bass
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Pete Sessions
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