

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 14, 2024

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 2025 (FY25) Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies 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.

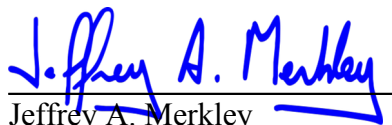
We request that the SEOG program receive \$1.15 billion in FY25 through the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related agencies appropriations bill. SEOG provides up to \$4,000 in grants to low- and middle-income students and funds programs that help at-risk students get into and stay in college. Providing low-income students with grant aid, rather than only providing loans, increases student retention and success.

Similarly, 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 \$1.603 billion.

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 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.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator



Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator



Thomas R. Carper
United States Senator



Tim Kaine
United States Senator



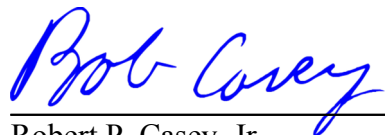
Alex Padilla
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator



Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator



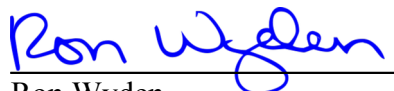
Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator



Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator



Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator



Ron Wyden
United States Senator



Raphael Warnock
United States Senator



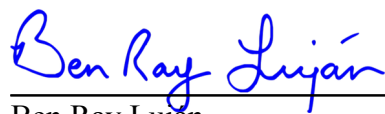
Jack Reed
United States Senator



Sherrod Brown
United States Senator



Ben Ray Lujan
United States Senator



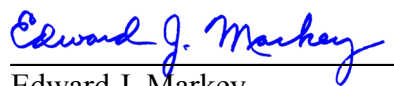
Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator



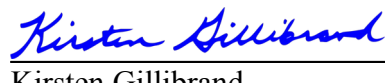
Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Edward J. Markey
United States Senator



Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator



Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator



Jon Ossoff
United States Senator



Christopher A. Coons
United States Senator



Catherine Cortez Masto
United States Senator



Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator



Christopher S. Murphy
United States Senator



Cory A. Booker
United States Senator



Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator