

February 18, 2014

Representative Harold Rogers
Chair
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Representative Nita Lowey
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Senator Barbara Mikulski
Chair
Appropriations Committee
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Richard Shelby
Ranking Member
Appropriations Committee
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairs and Ranking Members:

As you consider the appropriate FY 2015 allocation levels for the subcommittees under your jurisdiction, we write to ask you to provide a level of funding for the Labor-Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies bill that will enable the subcommittees to address the serious challenges in funding that exist for higher education programs.

Our members appreciate the committee's efforts to restore many of the FY 2013 sequestration cuts, but those efforts do not fully reverse the erosion of higher education and research funding over the last few years. Since 2011, more than \$23 billion in financial aid has been eliminated, and over \$5.6 billion of this has been used solely for deficit reduction. This has meant a reduction in Pell Grant eligibility; the elimination of the LEAP Program; cuts to Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants, Federal Work-Study, TRIO, GEAR UP and graduate education; and an increase in the cost to borrow student loans.

This decline in support for student aid has been matched by reduced funding for the research programs that generate the new technologies and products that power our economy. While the FY 2014 omnibus appropriations measure did restore some of the funding for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) that was cut by sequestration, the NIH remains nearly \$1 billion below its FY 12 funding level. This comes on top of an overall funding decline of more than 20 percent in purchasing power since 2003. These cuts have already resulted in the suspension or elimination of hundreds of projects, freezing promising lines of research we may never be able to recover.

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At a time of increased global competition, eliminating funding for the very programs that build our workforce and drive innovation does not make sense. We are creating an innovation deficit and thus rapidly losing our position as the world's economic and technology leader to countries like China, South Korea and India, which are devoting ever greater portions of their spending to postsecondary education and research.

We ask that in setting the FY 2015 302 (b) levels, Congress follow the formula that led America to its preeminent position in the global economy. Providing sufficient authority to restore or enhance previously eliminated investments in student aid, institutional support and scientific research is an essential part of any comprehensive strategy for enhancing our economic competitiveness and solving our fiscal challenges.

Sincerely,



Molly Corbett Broad
President

MCB/ldw

On behalf of:

American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers
American Association of Community Colleges
American Association of State Colleges and Universities
American Council on Education
American Indian Higher Education Consortium
Association of American Universities
Association of Community College Trustees
Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges
Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities
Association of Public and Land-grant Universities
Council for Christian Colleges & Universities
Council for Opportunity in Education
EDUCAUSE
Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities
National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities
National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators
UNCF