

November 24, 2014

Senator Tom Harkin  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health  
and Human Services, Education,  
and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
731 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Jerry Moran  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health  
and Human Services, Education,  
and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
361A Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Harkin and Ranking Member Moran:

On behalf of the undersigned associations, we write to express our strong opposition to any effort to use funding taken from the Pell Grant Program for any other purpose in the Fiscal Year 2015 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies appropriations bill under consideration by the subcommittee as part of an omnibus spending bill.

Recently, reports have circulated of a proposal to take \$2 billion in Pell Grant funding and transfer that money to other programs. Regardless of the merits of the other programs, this approach would be dangerously short-sighted.

Pell Grants are critically important in ensuring access to postsecondary education for low- and middle-income students. The program is the foundation on which the federal government's historic commitment to higher education access rests. Over nine million students depend on Pell Grants to fund their educations. The loss of even a portion of that funding will force many of these students to abandon their studies.

That is why we oppose any efforts to weaken this proven, successful program by depleting the current surplus. With Pell Grants projected to return to significant shortfalls in the near future, stripping existing funding will needlessly endanger the near-term health and stability of the program.

Congress has cut federal financial aid repeatedly over the last few years. Benefits have been eliminated, and students are paying more for their federal student loans. Students cannot afford to continue subsidizing other areas of the budget. We urge you to support America's students and reject any proposals that would weaken the Pell Grant Program.

Pell Grant Funding  
November 24, 2014

Sincerely,



Molly Corbett Broad  
President

MCB/ldw

On behalf of:

ACPA-College Student Educators International  
American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education  
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 Dental Education Association  
American Indian Higher Education Consortium  
APPA, Leadership in Educational Facilities  
Association of American Colleges and Universities  
Association of American Universities  
Association of Catholic Colleges & Universities  
Association of Community College Trustees  
Association of Governing Boards  
Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities  
Association of Public and Land-grant Universities  
Association of Research Libraries  
Council for Advancement and Support of Education  
Council for Christian Colleges & Universities  
Council of Graduate Schools  
Council of Independent Colleges  
EDUCAUSE  
Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities  
NAFSA: Association of International Educators  
NASPA - Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education  
National Association for College Admission Counseling  
National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education  
National Association of College and University Business Officers  
National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities  
National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators  
Thurgood Marshall College Fund  
UNCF  
University Professional & Continuing Education Association