

# Student Aid Alliance

November 17, 2014

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

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

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

Senator Richard Shelby  
Vice-Chair  
Appropriations Committee  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairs and Ranking Members:

As you move to finalize Fiscal Year 2015 appropriations, we write to urge you to enact an omnibus bill that protects the vital student aid programs funded through the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies appropriations bill. The millions of students, educators, administrators and college presidents we represent appreciate the committee's effort to restore many of the funding cuts imposed by sequestration.

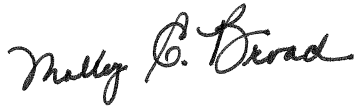
Unfortunately, this was an exception to several years of substantial cuts to student aid. Since 2011, more than \$23 billion in financial aid has been eliminated, and over \$5.6 billion of this has been used solely for deficit reduction. This has meant a reduction in Pell Grant eligibility; the elimination 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.

Our economy depends on developing skilled workers who can effectively compete in a challenging global marketplace. Postsecondary education is the means to achieving this, and student aid is what opens the door to college for low- and middle-income students. The FY15 appropriations bills offer Congress the opportunity to begin addressing these challenges, and to

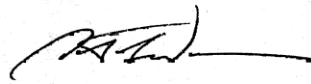
move toward greater competitiveness, productivity and economic growth through a better educated workforce.

We urge you to support the student aid programs and build on last year's bipartisan efforts to restore funding for these critical programs in the FY15 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies appropriations bill.

Sincerely,



Molly Corbett Broad  
Co-Chairman



David Warren  
Co-Chairman



## 2014 Members

AACRAO: American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers  
Alliance for Excellent Education  
American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education  
American Association of Colleges of Nursing  
American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine  
American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy  
American Association of Community Colleges  
American Association of State Colleges and Universities  
American Council on Education  
American Dental Education Association  
American Federation of Teachers  
American Indian Higher Education Consortium  
American Student Association of Community Colleges  
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  
Coalition of Higher Education Assistance Organization  
Columbia University  
Consortium of Universities of the Washington Metropolitan Area  
Council for Higher Education Accreditation  
Council for Opportunity in Education  
Council of Graduate Schools  
Council of Independent Colleges  
Educational Testing Service  
EDUCAUSE  
Georgetown University  
Harvard University  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
Michigan State University  
NASSGAP Federal Relations Committee  
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 College Stores  
National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities  
National Association of State Student Grant and Aid Programs  
National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators  
National Association of Student Personnel Administrators  
National College Access Network  
National Council for Community and Education Partnerships  
National Council of Higher Education Resources  
National Education Association  
National Education Organization  
New York Higher Education Services Corp.  
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey  
The California State University  
The College Board  
The Fashion Institute of Design & Merchandising  
The Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities  
The National Collegiate Athletic Association  
The Ohio State University  
UNCF  
United States Student Association  
University of California  
University of Maryland System  
University of Michigan  
University of Southern California  
University of Washington  
Utah Valley State College  
Vanderbilt University