



March 19, 2015

United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the over eighty member organizations and institutions of the Student Aid Alliance, which represents students, college presidents, and other educators who support federal student aid, we write to express our strong opposition to the FY 2016 Budget Resolution under consideration in the House.

It would be difficult to overstate the significant negative impact this budget resolution would have on American college students. At a time when the return on investment of a college education has never been greater; when global competition has never been more intense; and when our economy is more dependent than ever on an educated and innovative workforce, this budget represents a threat to our nation's future economic competitiveness. In particular:


- The budget resolution would freeze the Pell Grant maximum award at the current \$5,775 for 10 years, and eliminates over \$89 billion in mandatory Pell funding.
- The budget would further reduce eligibility for Pell Grants, forcing students with financial need to borrow more to afford college.
- The budget would eliminate the in-school interest subsidy for low-income undergraduates, cutting over \$34 billion in aid — and adding an average of \$3,800 in debt to the students with the most need.
- The budget would eliminate public service loan forgiveness and roll back income-based repayment programs, cutting \$26.8 billion in benefits to borrowers. This will make student loans more expensive to repay, especially for nurses, police, firefighters, service members, teachers and other public service employees.
- This budget would cut domestic discretionary funding by \$759 billion over the next ten years, putting extraordinary pressure on the funding for student aid programs.

- The budget would add a market risk penalty to student loan scoring, artificially inflating the cost of student loan programs and obscuring the actual budgetary impact of these programs.

Overall, this budget would cut over \$150 billion in student aid. If enacted, this approach will threaten America's current competitive advantage in the global economy while countries such as China and India are rapidly expanding their investments in higher education.

We urge you to affirm the historic, bipartisan commitment Congress has made to America's students and reject the draconian cuts proposed in the House Budget Resolution. The pathway to economic growth requires a continued investment in postsecondary education.

Sincerely,



Molly Corbett Broad
Co-Chairman



David Warren
Co-Chairman



2015 Members

AACRAO: American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers

ACT, Inc.

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 Association of University Professors

American College Personnel Association

American Council on Education

American Dental Education Association

American Federation of Teachers

American Indian Higher Education Consortium

American Society for Engineering Education

American Student Association of Community Colleges

APPA

Association of American Law Schools

Association of American Universities

Association of American Veterinarian Medical Colleges

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

Association of Research Libraries

Association of Schools of Allied Health Professionals

Boston University

Clemson University

Coalition of Higher Education Assistance Organization

Columbia University

Consortium of Christian Colleges and Universities

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

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Georgetown University

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Michigan State University

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 Graduate and Professional Students

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 Loan Resources

National Council of Research Administrators

National Direct Student Loan Coalition

National Education Association

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 Continuing Education Association

University of California

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US Public Interest Research Group

Utah Valley State College

Vanderbilt University

Women's College Coalition

Work Colleges Coalition