

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 28, 2021

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro, Chair
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, and Education Appropriations
2358-B Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Cole, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, and Education Appropriations
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair DeLauro and Ranking Member Cole:

We write to **thank you for your strong support of the Federal TRIO Programs (TRIO)** and to request that you provide a robust increase for these programs in the fiscal year (FY) 2022 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations bill. In recent years, your Subcommittee has provided significant levels of support for the TRIO programs and the students they serve: low-income, first-generation students, students with disabilities, homeless youths, students in or exiting foster care, military veterans, English learners, unemployed adults, and students in rural communities. As you prepare your FY 2022 appropriations bill, we ask that, once again, you prioritize the academic, financial, and social supports provided by TRIO so that even more students can benefit from these life-changing services.

The COVID-19 crisis has ravaged every stage of our education system, thus making the need for targeted investments in TRIO all the more urgent. The National Student Clearinghouse Research Center reported that, in fall 2020, the **college enrollment rate of students from high-poverty high schools plunged nearly one-third lower than the year before**. Meanwhile, U.S. Census data showed that **students in low-income families are twice as likely to drop out of community college during this crisis**. Without TRIO's individualized counseling, advising, and support, an entire generation of low-income, first-generation students may be lost. A strong boost in FY22 funding would expand TRIO to allow more students to prepare for, persist in, and graduate from college.

TRIO is ripe for investment in FY 2022, as the Department of Education will host grant competitions for four TRIO programs -- Upward Bound, Upward Bound Math-Science, Veterans Upward Bound, and Ronald E. McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement. **Upward Bound** provides high school students with tutoring, mentoring and college counseling during the school year and a six-week residential college experience, all with the aim of improving college enrollment and attainment. **Upward Bound Math-Science** uses a similar model, with the goal of encouraging participants to pursue postsecondary degrees and careers in STEM fields. **Veterans Upward Bound** provides academic tutoring and counseling to help support military veterans' enrollment in and completion of postsecondary education. Finally, **Ronald E. McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement** provides undergraduates with opportunities for research, internships, seminars, tutoring, and academic counseling, with the goal of students from disadvantaged backgrounds earning doctoral degrees.

A funding increase for TRIO in FY22 will also support TRIO **Student Support Services**, which promotes college retention and attainment for low-income, first-generation undergraduates and students with disabilities; **Talent Search**, which provides college outreach services to low-income

middle and high school students; and **Educational Opportunity Centers**, which assist unemployed and low-income adults in re-entering the education pipeline.

We appreciate the Committee's continued commitment to TRIO. Given the programs' proven success and the need to address higher education access, affordability, and completion, we respectfully request your support of a robust funding increase for TRIO in FY 2022.

Sincerely,



Gwen Moore
Member of Congress



Christopher H. Smith
Member of Congress



Donald M. Payne, Jr.
Member of Congress



Vicky Hartzler
Member of Congress

Also signed by:

Filemon Vela
Member of Congress

Sylvia R. Garcia
Member of Congress

Eric Swalwell
Member of Congress

Cindy Axne
Member of Congress

Adam Smith
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Suzanne Bonamici
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