



The Honorable Tammy Baldwin
Chair
Committee on Appropriations Subcommittee on
Labor, Health and Human Services, Education,
and Related Agencies
United States Senate
709 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations Subcommittee on
Labor, Health and Human Services, Education,
and Related Agencies
United States Senate
172 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

November 1, 2024

Dear Chair Baldwin and Ranking Member Capito,

Thank you for your ongoing work to support students in pursuing and completing postsecondary education and preparing them to be successful leaders in our workforce. As the National College Attainment Network (NCAN), a membership association of 500 college access and success programs across the country, we urge you to oppose cuts to higher education funding, and ***support increases in funding for federal student aid administration and the maximum federal Pell Grant for Fiscal Year 2025.***

The challenges with the 2024-25 FAFSA rollout, and the impact on the students and families served by NCAN members, made it abundantly clear that the Office of Federal Student Aid (FSA) needs increased funding to achieve a smooth and efficient FAFSA launch for 2025-26. We strongly encourage Congress to support funding FSA at **no less than \$2.158 billion** for FY25, as proposed in the FY25 Senate Bill. As of October 18th, only 53% of high school seniors have been able to complete a 2024-25 FAFSA, contributing to a nearly [9% drop in FAFSA completions nationally](#), compared to the Class of 2023. Increased funding will help FSA address ongoing technical challenges and boost the capacity for supporting students and families in completing the FAFSA, so that they may receive the federal financial aid needed to pay for college. Additionally, the FY25 final appropriations package should continue FSA's expanded transfer authority from FY24. This will allow FSA to increase the rate of funding during particularly important time periods for FAFSA rollout, ensuring adequate resources are available when they are most in need.

Secondly, we urge Congress to support a **\$350 increase** in the maximum federal Pell Grant for FY25. We are grateful that Congress has continued to show bipartisan support for the Pell Grant in recent years. However, in order to get back on track to doubling the maximum Pell Grant award by 2029, robust investments are still needed. Currently, the Pell Grant covers [only about 30%](#) of the cost of attendance at public, bachelor's-granting colleges in the United States. A \$350 increase in the maximum Pell award would make a meaningful difference for Pell recipients across the country, who depend on federal grant aid to put college financially in reach.

We hope we can continue to count on your support in addressing college affordability and access to the FAFSA this year, through increasing funding for student aid administration and the Pell Grant. Through continued support of financial aid and operations, our country can work together to close gaps in educational attainment. NCAN appreciates your leadership in Congress to support these important federal programs.

Sincerely,



Kim Cook
Chief Executive Officer
National College Attainment Network