

ASSOCIATION of
JESUIT COLLEGES
& UNIVERSITIES
AJCU

May 18, 2022

BOSTON COLLEGE, MA
CANISIUS COLLEGE, NY
COLLEGE OF THE HOLY CROSS, MA
CREIGHTON UNIVERSITY, NE
FAIRFIELD UNIVERSITY, CT
FORDHAM UNIVERSITY, NY
GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY, DC
GONZAGA UNIVERSITY, WA
JOHN CARROLL UNIVERSITY, OH
LE MOYNE COLLEGE, NY
LOYOLA MARYMOUNT UNIVERSITY, CA
LOYOLA UNIVERSITY CHICAGO, IL
LOYOLA UNIVERSITY MARYLAND, MD
LOYOLA UNIVERSITY NEW ORLEANS, LA
MARQUETTE UNIVERSITY, WI
REGIS UNIVERSITY, CO
ROCKHURST UNIVERSITY, MO
SAINT JOSEPH'S UNIVERSITY, PA
SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY, MO
SAINT PETER'S UNIVERSITY, NJ
SANTA CLARA UNIVERSITY, CA
SEATTLE UNIVERSITY, WA
SPRING HILL COLLEGE, AL
UNIVERSITY OF DETROIT MERCY, MI
UNIVERSITY OF SAN FRANCISCO, CA
UNIVERSITY OF SCRANTON, PA
XAVIER UNIVERSITY, OH

Hon. Rosa DeLauro
Chair
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and
Human Services, Education, and
Related Agencies
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Hon. Tom Cole
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and
Human Services, Education, and
Related Agencies
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Hon. Patty Murray
Chair
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and
Human Services, Education, and
Related Agencies
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Hon. Roy Blunt
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and
Human Services, Education, and
Related Agencies
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairs DeLauro and Murray and Ranking Members Cole and Blunt:

Thank you for your support in passing the Consolidated Appropriations Act of FY2022. This legislation included vital investments in student financial aid and higher education programs that are strongly supported by the Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities (AJCU). The \$400 increase in the maximum Pell Grant, along with the other boosts for education funding, will have an immediate, positive impact on the more than 130,000 undergraduate students enrolled at our 27 Jesuit colleges and universities in the United States.

As you prepare the FY2023 Labor, HHS, Education Appropriations bill, AJCU encourages you to champion increased funding for the student aid programs and other higher education programs that provide financial support for students across the country. Specifically, AJCU requests that Congress increase the Pell Grant maximum to \$13,000 and increase funding for the campus-based aid programs: Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants to \$1.09 billion and Federal Work Study to \$1.520 billion. In addition, AJCU supports increasing funding for the Federal TRIO program to \$1.307 billion and the GEAR UP program to \$435 million. Support services programs like these increase retention and completion—goals that are as important as providing access to college. We strongly support the President's recommendation to make Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients eligible for federal student financial aid. We also support investments in graduate education and call on Congress to fund Graduate Assistance in Areas of National Need at its authorized level of \$35 million. Finally, AJCU supports \$161.1 million for International Education and the Fulbright-Hays program (Title VI). All of these programs will make a Jesuit education (known for its academic rigor and focus on social justice) more accessible to a greater number of low-income students. At present, nearly 25 percent of students at our institutions receive Pell

Grants. Our colleges and universities add to that with more than \$2 billion in funded and unfunded institutional aid.

Our schools are still wrestling with challenges created by the on-going pandemic. Over the past two years, as we continue to prioritize safety for our students, faculty and staff, spikes in Covid cases have necessitated changes in our protocols and procedures on campus. The Higher Education Emergency Relief Funds (HEERF) provided by Congress in 2020 were a lifeline to our students at a time of great uncertainty and disruption, by helping them stay in college and assisting them with access to resources for self-care. The institutional portion of HEERF funds were used to address severe financial losses and any reserve funds are being directed toward public health and other critical campus needs.

At Jesuit colleges and universities, we seek to provide students not only with a well-rounded education, but also the tools of discernment: the spiritual guidance and support they will need to make carefully informed decisions. On our campuses, we encourage our students to make the plight of those who are marginalized a core feature of their educational experiences — understanding that the future they wish to construct cannot be exclusive to themselves, but inclusive of the entire human family. The Jesuit values that animate our schools offer an invitation to students to engage in the world around them and use their gifts and knowledge to make it better. In this pursuit, AJCU recognizes that federal student aid is a powerful equalizer and a foundational means of expanding access for those who choose a Jesuit higher education, especially students with economic need.

AJCU is grateful for your leadership and your partnership. We look forward to working with you to ensure funding for our schools, and create opportunities for a more equitable, hope-filled future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Michael J. Garanzini S.J." with a stylized flourish at the end.

Rev. Michael J. Garanzini, S.J.
President
Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities