

ASSOCIATION of JESUIT COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES

AJCU

July 19, 2023

Hon. Kay Granger
Chair
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Hon. Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

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
ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE, BELIZE
THE UNIVERSITY OF SCRANTON, PA
UNIVERSITY OF DETROIT MERCY, MI
UNIVERSITY OF SAN FRANCISCO, CA
XAVIER UNIVERSITY, OH

Dear Chair Granger and Ranking Member DeLauro:

The Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities (AJCU) is gravely concerned about the cuts to and elimination of vitally important federal programs in the Fiscal Year 2024 Labor, HHS, Education Subcommittee markup. The elimination of Federal Work Study (FWS) and the Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunities Grants (SEOG) will impact more than 600,000 students with economic need who live in every state and every Congressional district. As you know, these programs are income-based and will have the greatest negative impact on aspiring post-secondary students who demonstrate the greatest financial need.

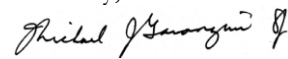
At our nation's Jesuit colleges and universities, over 90% of students receive federal, state, local and/or institutional aid to help them afford college. Nearly 16,000 students enrolled in Jesuit colleges and universities receive SEOG and just over 11,000 students participate in the FWS program.

Eliminating programs like FWS and SEOG will have severe consequences for students and for our nation both in the near-term and into the future. Without these federal resources, many students will not be able to pursue post-secondary education, thus stifling their potential and limiting opportunity. In the long-term, we would drastically reduce our nation's competitive edge, as well as America's capacity for growth and innovation.

Since the first Jesuit school was founded in 1548, we have recognized the transformative power of education to develop the whole person and prepare them for a life of leadership and service, always focused on the greater good. It still holds true today that education is at the foundation of our strength as a nation, measured in so many ways. This bill will weaken us through a disinvestment in our people. We respectfully urge you to restore these programs at adequate levels when the legislation is considered by the full committee.

If you would like to discuss these issues further, please contact me directly at mgaranzini@ajcunet.edu or have your staff contact Jenny Smulson, AJCU's Vice President for Government Relations, at jmulson@ajcunet.edu.

Sincerely,



Rev. Michael J. Garanzini, S.J.
President

Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities