



April 16, 2024

BOSTON COLLEGE, MA
CANISIUS UNIVERSITY, 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

Hon. Tammy Baldwin
Chair
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee
on Labor, HHS, Education and Related Agencies
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Hon. Shelley Moore Capito
Ranking Member
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee
on Labor, HHS, Education and Related Agencies
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Hon. Robert Aderholt
Chair
House Appropriations Subcommittee on
Labor, HHS, Education and Related Agencies
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Hon. Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Subcommittee on
Labor, HHS, Education and Related Agencies
United States House of Representatives
Washington DC 20515

Dear Chair Baldwin, Ranking Member Capito, Chair Aderholt and Ranking Member DeLauro:

On behalf of the Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities (AJCU), I thank you for your leadership in completing a Fiscal Year 2024 appropriations bill that maintained funding for federal higher education programs under challenging circumstances.

Located in 17 states and the District of Columbia, our institutions (which include Baccalaureate colleges and Doctoral universities) are engines for our national and local economies. They foster learning, discovery, and dialogue; support job creation; and provide myriad services and supports to members of our campus communities (including more than 212,000 students) and beyond.

The constraints imposed by the Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023 will impact your FY'25 funding framework. Even with these limitations, we strongly urge you to recognize the seeds that federal education funding sow in all areas of priority to our government. Investing in students now enables future innovation: without an educated populace and workforce, our investments in Agriculture, Defense, Commerce, Health Care, and Homeland Security will not reach their full potential.

We urge the Subcommittee to increase the federal programs listed below:

- Increase the **maximum Pell Grant to \$13,000**. The sooner we can increase the maximum Pell, the more quickly we can realize the benefits of widening doors to opportunity, especially to underserved populations. One quarter of AJCU students receive a Pell Grant.

- Provide **\$1.15 billion** for the **Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (SEOG)** program and **\$1.603 billion** for the **Federal Work Study (FWS)** program. These amounts reflect inflationary increases. Together, these programs support millions of students with economic need as they seek advancement. At Jesuit colleges and universities, more than 10% receive SEOG and FWS.
- Invest **\$1.26 billion** in **TRIO** and **\$410 million** in the **Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP)**: programs that level the opportunity playing field for first-generation students.
- Support **International education programs**. These programs are also critical, particularly in the role they play to nurture global citizens, who are keenly aware of their place and responsibility to lead in an increasingly interconnected world. We ask that you provide **\$90.804 million** for those Title VI programs.
- Fund the **Graduate Assistance in Areas of National Need (GAANN)** program. It is small but critical in supporting students who are planning careers in high-demand areas: we ask that you provide **\$35 million** for that program.
- Tackle the mental health needs of students. One of the biggest challenges facing our students today is mental health: suicide remains the second leading cause of death among college students and mental health struggles are linked to lower grade point averages and attrition. SAMHSA's **Campus Suicide Prevention** program helps schools tackle the mental health needs of campus communities. We urge you to make a **\$12 million** investment in the Campus Suicide Prevention program and increase funding to **\$50 million** for the **GLS State/Tribal Youth Suicide program** that also supports college and university efforts in mental health.

As a nation, we will not grow or protect or innovate without making investments in our people. At Jesuit colleges and universities, we urge our graduates to go out and set the world on fire: to use their knowledge and gifts to make the world a better place. This begins with the resources provided by this Subcommittee, which will place them on a path of learning.

I am available to you and your staff to answer any questions you may have about AJCU's request for funding.

Sincerely,



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