

# Congress of the United States

December 3, 2020

The Honorable Nita Lowey  
Chairwoman  
House Appropriations Committee  
H-307 The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Kay Granger  
Ranking Member  
House Appropriations Committee  
H-307 The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairwoman Lowey and Ranking Member Granger:

We are writing to bring to your attention a matter of priority concern to institutions of higher education located in our districts that were recently denied ongoing federal funding for their students most in need of assistance under the federal TRIO program. We respectfully urge your support for COVID-19 supplemental appropriations to enable these institutions to continue to serve the interests of high-need students during this time of a pandemic and severe economic distress.

As you know, federal TRIO programs provide support for outreach and student services for people from disadvantaged backgrounds, to help them progress through the academic pipeline. This includes low-income and first-generation college students, and individuals with disabilities.

In August, the Department of Education decided to discontinue funding for the TRIO programs operated by a number of incumbent TRIO grantees. This decision came as a shock to these institutions. For years, the TRIO program has supported institutions' efforts to provide support services to students who are most in need of assistance. These institutions had no expectation that TRIO funding would be discontinued.

The Department of Education's decision to discontinue funding for TRIO programs operated by postsecondary institutions comes at an extraordinarily difficult time. While colleges and universities are dealing with the impacts of the pandemic, economic turmoil, and challenges with adjusting to new modes of instruction and student and faculty engagement, no one has been impacted more than TRIO students.

We respectfully urge you to support COVID-19 supplemental appropriations to enable incumbent TRIO program grantees whose TRIO funding has been discontinued by the Department of Education to continue to provide these essential services to students in need of assistance.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

MIKE THOMPSON  
Member of Congress

VICKY HARTZLER  
Member of Congress

ANN WAGNER  
Member of Congress

BILLY LONG  
Member of Congress

SHARICE L. DAVIDS  
Member of Congress

TRENT KELLY  
Member of Congress

JASON SMITH  
Member of Congress

DANNY K. DAVIS  
Member of Congress

BRADLEY BYRNE  
Member of Congress

PETER WELCH  
Member of Congress

MICHAEL F.Q. SAN NICOLAS  
Member of Congress

JIMMY PANETTA  
Member of Congress

SCOTT H. PETERS  
Member of Congress

DORIS MATSUI  
Member of Congress

ANDY KIM  
Member of Congress

ABBY FINKENAUER  
Member of Congress

CAROL MILLER  
Member of Congress

JARED HUFFMAN  
Member of Congress

LOUIE GOHMERT  
Member of Congress

LARRY BUCSHON, M.D.  
Member of Congress

SUZAN K. DELBENE  
Member of Congress

FRED UPTON  
Member of Congress

JOHN CURTIS  
Member of Congress

JERROLD NADLER  
Member of Congress

JIM HIMES  
Member of Congress

RICHARD E. NEAL  
Member of Congress

CHRIS JACOBS  
Member of Congress

MARKWAYNE MULLIN  
Member of Congress

CHRISSY HOULAHAN  
Member of Congress

TOM RICE  
Member of Congress

WILLIAM R. KEATING  
Member of Congress

JAMES COMER  
Member of Congress

JENNIFFER GONZALEZ-COLON  
Member of Congress