



October 16, 2023

The Honorable Kay Granger  
Chairwoman  
Committee on Appropriations

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations

Dear Chair Granger and Ranking Member DeLauro,

On behalf of the chief executive officers of the nation's 1,038 community colleges and their more than 6,500 elected and appointed trustees, we write to share our concerns regarding fiscal year (FY) 2024 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies (Labor-HHS-Education) funding. The programs funded by this bill are vital to the community college mission to promote high quality and affordable higher education, cutting-edge workforce education and training, student success, and economic self-sufficiency and security.

As you resume work on FY 2024 funding, we ask the committee to reevaluate funding in the House's subcommittee-approved Labor-HHS-Education bill. Further action should restore some of the proposed cuts, particularly program eliminations, while maintaining other vital education and workforce programs.

The subcommittee bill cuts funding by \$63.8 billion below FY2023 levels and provides the lowest Labor-HHS-Education spending since 2008. Taken together, if these cuts are enacted they would be devastating to our students. The Fiscal Responsibility Act, which passed Congress with strong bipartisan support, set spending levels for FY 2024 at a higher level than that contained in the current subcommittee bill; the gap between the two makes it possible for the Committee to reconsider the bill's cuts and eliminations while still meeting the bipartisan targets previously agreed upon.

As currently written, the bill would limit access and reduce college affordability for many of our low-income students by eliminating the Federal Work Study (FWS) and the Federal Supplemental Education Opportunity Grant (FSEOG). Together with the Pell Grant, these two programs enable millions of low- and middle-income students to attend college and earn a degree.

We appreciate that the bill did not cut the Pell Grant maximum award and that funding previously provided by Congress for the Pell Grant was protected. However, we ask that the maximum Pell Grant be increased to meet the financial needs of our students and avoid a decrease in the grant's purchasing power.

We are also gravely concerned with the proposed elimination of funding for the Child Care Access Means Parents in School (CCAMPIS) program. One in 5 undergraduate students are student-parents, meaning that our institutions face a dire need for on-campus childcare services. A lack of childcare access can and does result in students dropping out and being unable to successfully complete their

programs. For these reasons, we urge the committee to reconsider the program elimination and instead level-fund the program to help us better support student-parents, in their efforts to upskill themselves and obtain better paying jobs.

Finally, we greatly appreciate the continued support for the Strengthening Community College Training Grant program, Higher Education Act Title III-A (Strengthening Institutions program), Federal TRIO programs, and Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs. The additional \$10 million in funding for HBCUs that are community or junior colleges will greatly benefit those campuses and their students. We hope that all these proposed funding levels will be included in the final version of the bill.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to Jim Hermes at [jhermes@aacc.nche.edu](mailto:jhermes@aacc.nche.edu) or Jose Miranda at [jmiranda@acct.org](mailto:jmiranda@acct.org).

Sincerely,



Walter G. Bumphus, Ph.D.  
AACC President and CEO



Jee Hang Lee  
ACCT President and CEO