



July 9, 2024

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations &
Labor-HHS-Education Subcommittee

The Honorable Robert Aderholt
Chairman
Labor-HHS-Education Subcommittee

Dear Chairs Cole and Aderholt and Ranking Member DeLauro:

On behalf of the nation's 1,026 community colleges, the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) and the Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) write to oppose the FY 25 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies appropriations bill scheduled to be marked up by the committee July 10. Unfortunately, the few positive elements of this bill are substantially outweighed by deep cuts to many programs that are vital to the community college mission.

These cuts are among those that would inflict great harm on our students and institutions:

- 50% reductions to the Federal Work Study and Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants programs
- Elimination of the Childcare Access Means Parents in School and Basic Needs Grants programs
- Near-elimination of next year's Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act adult workers program, and elimination of the WIOA Youth funding stream

We appreciate that the bill sustains the maximum Pell Grant—though increases are still needed—and Strengthening Community College Training Grants program. The legislation also provides modest increases for the Perkins CTE and Higher Education Act Title III programs, including the Title III-A Strengthening Institutions Program. Nonetheless, we urge the committee to reject this bill and instead work towards a bipartisan compromise that starts with a 1% increase over FY 24 enacted levels for non-defense discretionary programs, as envisioned in the agreements accompanying the Fiscal Responsibility Act. This could enable our students and campuses to receive the support they need and deserve.

Sincerely,

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

Jee Hang Lee
ACCT President and CEO