

Join Congressional Dear Colleague Letters for Student Aid and Support Funding

Each spring, members of Congress can sign public letters to the Appropriations Committee supporting programmatic requests for key national programs (separate from earmarks). Please sign these letters when they are circulated again for FY27, and submit these programs in the internal Appropriations Committee submission database for Labor-HHS-Education.

Pell Grants, Federal Work Study (FWS), and Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants (SEOG):

Representative Tom Kean Jr. (R-NJ) led **26 Republicans** on the FY26 [letter](#) urging robust funding for Pell Grants, FWS, and SEOG. Staff contact: Tara Snowden

Pell Grants:

- **Reps. Seth Magaziner (D-RI) and Maxine Waters (D-CA)** led 126 representatives on the FY26 [letter](#) urging doubling the maximum Pell Grant. Staff contact: Raisa Majid
- **Senators Mazie Hirono (D-HI), Jack Reed (D-RI), and Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI)** led 44 senators on the FY26 [letter](#) urging progress toward doubling the grant. Contacts: Ben Strand (Hirono) and Moira Lenehan (Reed)

Federal Work Study (FWS), and Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants (SEOG):

- **Rep. Joe Morelle (D-PA)** led **98 Democrats** on the FY26 [letter](#) supporting inflation-adjusted levels of \$966.3 million for SEOG and \$1.31 billion for FWS. Staff contact: Jordan Jablonski **Senators Jeff Merkley (D-OR) and Sen. Mazie Hirono (D-HI)** led 27 senators on the FY26 [letter](#) requesting inflation-adjusted levels. Contact: Becca Damante (Merkley)

TRIO Programs (Upward Bound, Student Support Services, Talent Search, etc.):

- **Reps. Gwen Moore (D-WI), Nikema Williams (D-GA), Claudia Tenney (R-NY), and Chris Smith (R-NJ)** led 209 (**189 Democrats** and **40 Republicans**) on the FY26 [letter](#) supporting robust funding. Contact: Anna Whitwam
- **Senators Raphael Warnock (D-GA) and Bill Cassidy (R-LA)** led 46 senators (**39 Democrats** and **5 Republicans**) on the FY26 [letter](#) urging robust funding. Contacts: Annette Christie (Warnock) and Ron Anderson (Cassidy)

Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP):

- **Rep. Kim Schrier (D-WA)** led **44 Democrats** on the [letter](#) requesting \$410 million. Contact: Shannon Lynch
- **Senators Jack Reed (D-RI) and John Cornyn (R-TX)** led 37 senators (**33 Democrats** and **4 Republicans**) on the FY26 [letter](#) supporting GEAR UP. Contact: Moira Lenehan (Reed) and Anna Wilson (Cornyn)

Child Care Access Means Parents in School (CCAMPIS):

- **Rep. Bill Foster (D-IL)** led 51 senators on the [letter](#) supporting robust funding. Contact: Kim Soffen
- **Senator Tammy Duckworth (D-IL)** led senators on a [letter](#) for robust funding. Contact: Ben Rhodeside

Adult Basic Education (ABE):

- **Rep. Dan Goldman (D-NY)** led **25 Democrats** on the FY26 [letter](#) supporting an increase to \$810 million. Contact: Jesse Rodriguez
- **Senators Jack Reed (D-RI) and Todd Young (R-IN)** led 31 senators on the FY26 [letter](#) supporting an increase to \$810 million. Staff contact: Moira Lenehan (Reed)

Perkins Career and Technical Education (CTE):

- **Reps. Glenn Thompson (R-PA) and Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR)** led 88 representatives (**14 Republicans** and **74 Democrats**) on the FY26 [letter](#) supporting an increase. Contact: Faith Tuttle
- **Senator Richard Blumenthal (D-CT)** led 40 senators on the FY26 [letter](#) supporting an increase Contact: Brian Steele (Blumenthal)