

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 27, 2026

The Honorable Robert Aderholt
Chair
Appropriations Subcommittee on
Labor, Health and Human Services,
Education, and Related Agencies
2358-B Rayburn House Office Building
Washington D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Appropriations Subcommittee on
Labor, Health and Human Services,
Education, and Related Agencies
1036 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chair Aderholt and Ranking Member DeLauro:

As you begin drafting the Fiscal Year 2027 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, we write to express our continued support for significant funding for the Postsecondary Student Success Grants program (PSSG), which bolsters college retention and completion initiatives. This investment will pay dividends to local economies through stronger employment outcomes, and reduce the “skills gap” between available jobs and qualified candidates.

PSSG has bipartisan support, having received funding in the four prior bipartisan fiscal year budget agreements, including \$45 Million appropriated for the program in the recently passed FY26 LHHS appropriations bill. Members of both parties have also introduced legislation that includes authorizing language for the program. Given this groundswell of bipartisan, bicameral support, we strongly encourage you to provide level or expanded funding for the evidence-based Postsecondary Student Success Grant program in the FY27 appropriations bill.

Nationwide, completion rates for those pursuing two- and four-year degrees have substantial room for improvement, adversely impacting pipelines into local workforce participation. PSSG addresses these issues by building higher education institutional capacity through evidenced-based strategies to graduate more students prepared to enter the workforce. Rigorous research demonstrates that when higher education institutions use comprehensive approaches to student success and provide academic, career counseling, and personal services they improve postsecondary outcomes and graduation rates. For example, studies have shown that the CUNY program nearly doubled the three-year graduation rate for associate degree students, and Bottom Line students were eight percentage points more likely to graduate with a bachelor’s degree within five years of high school graduation. These programs offer replicable models that can be scaled through large-scale investment in the Postsecondary Student Success Grants program.

To date, 22 grants supporting projects at more than 40 institutions of higher education have been awarded through PSSG. The initial \$5 million in competitive Postsecondary Student Success Grants awarded in FY22 enabled 5 institutions in Florida, New Jersey, South Carolina, and Texas to implement and scale programs to strengthen student retention and completion. Subsequent \$45 million allocations for PSSG in each of the FY23 and FY24 appropriations packages expanded these vital interventions to additional grantees in California, Colorado,

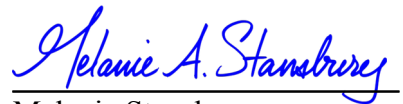
Georgia, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Oklahoma, Oregon, and Texas. Continued investment is essential to sustain and expand high-impact student success practices, particularly those meeting the high bar for receiving an “expansion” grant under the Education Innovation and Research program based on prior effectiveness.

Investing robust sums to strengthen evidence-based Postsecondary Student Success Grants under FIPSE will provide students with support to reach their postsecondary education goals, close the workforce skill gaps, and bolster the economy and nation’s future.

Sincerely,



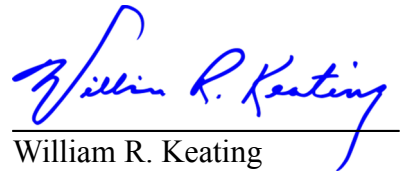
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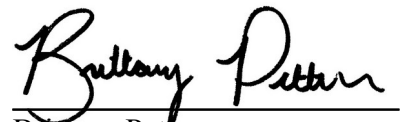
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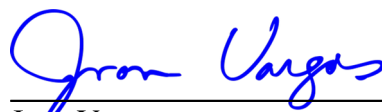
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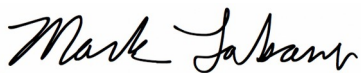
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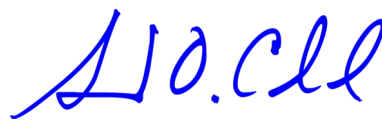
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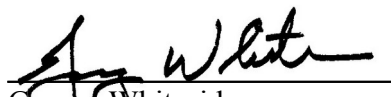
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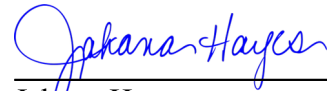
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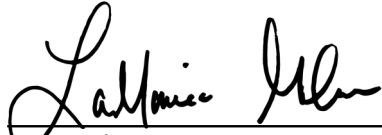
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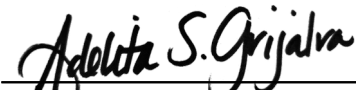
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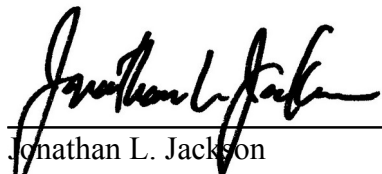
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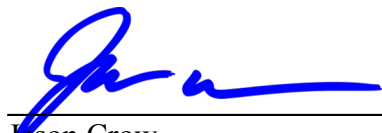
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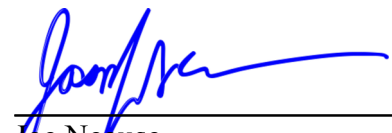
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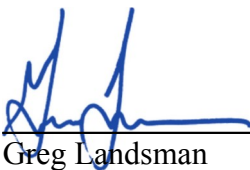
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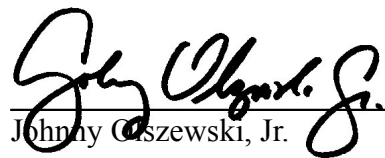
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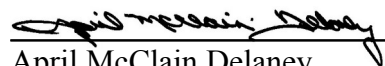
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