



National Association of
Independent Colleges and
Universities

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May 3, 2024

Honorable Robert Aderholt, Chair
House Subcommittee on Labor, Health
and Human Services, Education and
Related Agencies
U. S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Honorable Tammy Baldwin, Chair
Senate Subcommittee on Labor, Health
and Human Services, Education and
Related Agencies
U. S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Honorable Rosa DeLauro, Ranking Mbr.
House Subcommittee on Labor, Health
and Human Services, Education and
Related Agencies
U. S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Honorable Shelly Moore Capito, Ranking Mbr.
Senate Subcommittee on Labor, Health
and Human Services, Education and
Related Agencies
U. S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairs and Ranking Members:

On behalf of the members of the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (NAICU) and the undersigned associations, I write to thank you for sustaining funding for the Pell Grant, Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant and Federal Work-Study programs in the final FY 2024 appropriations bill, and to request that you reaffirm this support by increasing funding for the core federal student aid programs when you write the FY 2025 spending bills. As a member of the Student Aid Alliance Steering Committee, NAICU supports all the student aid programs.

NAICU's top priority is doubling the Pell Grant maximum award to \$13,000. Pell Grants help almost seven million current students and have helped over 80 million students since it was created in 1972. Doubling the Pell Grant is the best and most efficient way for Congress to help low-income and first-generation students to access and complete college. Americans value the Pell Grant as the proven program to help students directly pay for college. National polling shows that 75% of Americans from across political parties support doubling Pell, and 82% support expanding it. With recent college graduates paying \$7,800 more on average in annual taxes than high school graduates of the same age, the continued bipartisan support of increasing the Pell Grant maximum provides a critical return on investment for our nation's economic stabilization.

NAICU also strongly supports the campus-based aid programs, particularly an increase of \$240 million, to \$1.15 billion, for the Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant and an increase of \$373 million, to \$1.603 billion, for Federal Work-Study. Together, these campus-based aid programs are matched with institutional dollars to provide up to an additional \$4,000 in grant aid for Pell Grant recipients and campus jobs that help students persist to degree completion without overly burdensome student loan debt.

NAICU also supports increases in all Title III and Title V programs that help strengthen institutions that enroll historically underrepresented students. NAICU has a particular interest in



the president's FY 2025 budget request for an additional \$18 million investment, to \$140 million, in Title III-Part A, Strengthening Institutions Program (SIP), which is specifically targeted to low-resource institutions with a high enrollment of low-income students.

The SIP program provides grants to 504 private, nonprofit institutions and helps support efforts in such areas as student physical and mental health and food and housing needs. Additional support through the SIP program could go a long way toward maintaining the strength of these institutions and the students they serve.

We are equally supportive of increased funding for Historically Black Colleges and Universities and Minority-Serving Institutions, including Hispanic Serving institutions, which play a unique role in the American higher education landscape.

NAICU serves as the unified voice for the 1,700 private, nonprofit colleges and universities in our nation. Founded in 1976, NAICU is the only national membership organization solely focused on representing private, nonprofit higher education on public policy issues in Washington, DC. NAICU's membership reflects the diversity of private, nonprofit higher education in the U.S. Our member institutions include major research universities, faith-based colleges, Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Hispanic-Serving Institutions and other Minority-Serving Institutions, art and design colleges, conservatories of music, traditional liberal arts and science institutions, women's colleges, work colleges, two-year colleges and schools of law, medicine, engineering, business and other professions.

Each year, private, nonprofit colleges and universities graduate more than 1.2 million students. Additionally, the economic impact of the private, nonprofit sector of higher education for academic year 2022-23 totaled \$652 billion, and the sector generated \$99 billion in tax revenues and supported and sustained 3.4 million jobs.

The continued bipartisan support for the federal student aid and institutional aid programs is an indicator of the importance of these programs and the impact they have on students.

Thank you for considering NAICU's request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Barbara K. Mistick". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Barbara K. Mistick, D.B.A.
President

cc: House and Senate Appropriations Committee Members

On behalf of:



Alabama Association of Independent Colleges and Universities
Association for Biblical Higher Education
Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities
Association of Chiropractic Colleges
Association of Independent California Colleges and Universities (AICCU)
Association of Independent Colleges & Universities in Massachusetts
Association of Independent Colleges & Universities of Rhode Island
Association of Independent Colleges and Universities of Pennsylvania
Association of Independent Colleges of Art & Design
Association of Independent Kentucky Colleges and Universities
Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities
Association of Presbyterian Colleges and Universities
Association of Private Colleges and Universities of Puerto Rico / Asociación de Colegios y Universidades Privadas de Puerto Rico (ACUP)
CCCU - Council for Christian Colleges & Universities
Commission on Independent Colleges and Universities in New York
Conference for Mercy Higher Education
Connecticut Conference of Independent Colleges
Consortium of Hospital Affiliated Colleges and Universities
Consortium of Universities of the Washington Metropolitan Area
Council of Independent Colleges
Council of Independent Colleges in Virginia, Inc.
Council of Independent Nebraska Colleges
Georgia Independent College Association
Great Lakes Colleges Association
Independent Colleges and Universities of Florida
Independent Colleges and Universities of Texas
Independent Colleges of Indiana
Independent Colleges of Washington
Independent Higher Education of Colorado
International Association of Baptist Colleges and Universities
Kansas Independent College Association
Louisiana Association of Independent Colleges and Universities
Maryland Independent College and University Association
Michigan Independent Colleges & Universities
Minnesota Private College Council
Mississippi Alliance of Independent Colleges and Universities
Network of ELCA colleges and universities
New American Colleges and Universities
North Carolina Independent Colleges and Universities
Oregon Alliance of Independent Colleges and Universities
South Carolina Independent Colleges & Universities
Tennessee Independent Colleges and Universities Association
The Associated Colleges of the Midwest
University Senate The United Methodist Church



West Virginia Independent Colleges and Universities
Wisconsin Association of Independent Colleges and Universities
Work Colleges Consortium
Yes We Must Coalition