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**From:** NAICU Presidents Network [mailto:presnet@naicu.edu]

**Sent:** Thursday, March 03, 2011 3:50 PM

**To:** NAICU Presidents Network

**Subject:** [presnet] Update on Student Aid Cuts

Colleagues,

I want to thank all of you who have done so much to protect federal student aid from cuts, and to encourage you to keep up the good fight.

Yesterday, the President signed a stop-gap bill to keep the federal government operating for the next two weeks. Unfortunately, as part of that compromise package, the long-standing LEAP program is eliminated. LEAP provides important seed money for state need-based grant programs. We do not know what cash-strapped states will do in response, but hope they will not use this drop in resources as a rationale for cutting their state need-based grant programs.

The federal budget for the remainder of the current fiscal year beyond mid-March is still up in the air, and student aid is still on the table for more cuts. Many of you have told me that you have already talked to your elected officials, and want to know what else you can do. Here are some additional resources and ideas.

- We are particularly concerned about SEOG's future, as well as potential cuts to Pell. What's at stake is [described here](#).
- I hope you also will consider making the case in various public forums, including op-eds, radio call-ins, town hall meetings, and through the activation of your entire campus community -- from trustees to students.
- Students are often the best advocates for the Pell Grant and other student aid programs, so look for opportunities for them to tell their own stories. The proposed Pell Grant cut would impact the most students nationwide, but the elimination of SEOG disproportionately hurts students at private non-profit institutions.
- To assist your students in taking action, direct them to the [Student Aid Alliance Action Center](#). NAICU co-chairs the Student Aid Alliance, created in 1995 as a response to threats to eliminate federal student aid programs. We're currently in the process of updating the Alliance website, but the Action Center is live. Our activities now also include the use of social networks, such as [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).
- Late last week, you should have received a packet from NAICU containing your institutional, congressional, and state student aid data sheets. This will show you how important student aid is on your campus. Student aid numbers by state and congressional district, are also publicly available on the [NAICU website](#).

I know we have been communicating with you often this year, but we feel it is essential to keep you apprised and engaged in addressing ongoing threats to student aid funding. It is critically important that you continue to help us carry the message, to all of Congress on both sides of the aisle, that student aid matters -- to our students, our institutions, our communities, and our nation.

Thank you for all you continue to do.

David

David L. Warren  
President, NAICU