Message in brief: We appreciate all the Budget Committee has done to fund the student aid programs, and hope we can count on your continued support. We understand that there are ongoing federal fiscal pressures, including the pressing need to reduce the deficit and national debt. However, we believe federal student aid is an essential economic investment in the future of our nation, congressional district, and local community.

- **Thank you:** We want to thank you for ensuring that hard-working students without the means to pay for college will still have the opportunity to attend and graduate. As a college president, I have the privilege of seeing how the federal student aid programs change lives every day. *(Share a personal story of an instance in which federal student aid made a difference.)*

- **Federal Budget:** We understand the challenges facing you in this tight budget environment. However, we hope you will support maintaining funding for student aid (grants, work study, loans, and student support programs) in the FY 2015 budget.

- **Pell Grants:** We appreciate that Pell Grants were protected from sequestration, and that funding was restored to the other student aid programs in FY 2014. The increase in Pell to $5,730 – along with funding for SEOG, Federal Work Study, TRIO, and GEAR UP – helps low-income students get into college, stay in, and complete their higher education.

- **NAICU Data Sheets:** We consider our institution to be a partner with the federal government in the student aid effort. *(Refer to the NAICU student aid sheets for your congressional district and state.)* Just as the federal government has kept its commitment to assisting low-income students during the recent economic downturn, we also have redoubled our efforts to help needy students. *(Describe your own institution’s student aid efforts.)*

- **Federal Student Aid and Tuition:** I am concerned about the misperception that federal support for low-income students is a driver of colleges’ tuition increases. Without federal student aid, we would have to allocate even more of our tuition funds to provide institutional aid to needy students. It makes no logical sense that student aid drives up tuition.

- **Economic Impact:** Making it possible for more students to attend college brings multiple benefits. We ensure our nation’s economic stability by creating an educated, skilled workforce. At the local level, our students directly support local businesses, plus our college is a major local employer and purchaser of goods and services.
House Budget Committee

Republicans (21)
Paul D. Ryan, WI, Chair
Tom Price, GA
Scott Garrett, NJ
John Campbell, CA
Ken Calvert, CA
Tom Cole, OK
Tom McClintock, CA
James Lankford, OK
Diane Black, TN
Reid Ribble, WI
Bill Flores, TX
Todd Rokita, IN
Rob Woodall, GA
Marsha Blackburn, TN
Alan Nunnelee, MS
Scott Rigell, VA
Vicky Hartzler, MO
Jackie Walorski, IN
Tom Rice, SC
Roger Williams, TX
Sean Duffy, WI

Democrats (17)
Chris Van Hollen, MD, Ranking Member
John Yarmuth, KY
Bill Pascrell Jr., NJ
Tim Ryan, OH
Gwen Moore, WI
Kathy Castor, FL
Jim McDermott, WA
Barbara Lee, CA
Hakeem Jeffries, NY
Mark Pocan, WI
Michelle Lujan Grisham, NM
Jared Huffman, CA
Tony Cárdenas, CA
Earl Blumenauer, OR
Kurt Schrader, OR
Lloyd Doggett, TX
Dan Kildee, MI

Senate Budget Committee

Democrats (12)
Patty Murray, WA, Chair
Ron Wyden, OR
Bill Nelson, FL
Debbie Stabenow, MI
Bernard Sanders, VT (I)
Sheldon Whitehouse, RI
Mark Warner, VA
Jeff Merkley, OR
Chris Coons, DE
Tammy Baldwin, WI
Tim Kaine, VA
Angus King, ME

Republicans (10)
Jeff Sessions, AK, Ranking Member
Charles E. Grassley, IA
Michael B. Enzi, WY
Michael D. Crapo, ID
Lindsey Graham, SC
Rob Portman, OH
Patrick J. Toomey, PA
Ron Johnson, WI
Kelly Ayotte, NH
Roger Wicker, MS