

March 7, 2024



Dear Colleague,

I am writing to ask you to contact your Representative and Senators and ask them to do two critically important things related to federal financial aid:

1. Meet the newly established March 22 deadline for funding the student aid programs.
2. Increase the Pell Grant maximum award and fully fund the Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (SEOG) and Federal Work-Study (FWS) programs.

The time between now and March 22 is a critical period in the appropriations process for your Members of Congress to hear from you on these two issues.

Congress needs to decide now what the federal student aid levels should be for the coming academic year so colleges can make financial aid offers to students when the FAFSAs finally arrive on campus. **This is not the year to compound the damage already done by the FAFSA delay by cutting student aid funding.**

Congress has avoided a government shutdown by enacting a series of continuing resolutions (CR). The current CR which includes funding for the student aid programs expires March 22. The CR keeps programs running at current funding levels but does not set new funding levels for FY 2024.

I have included [talking points and a draft letter](#) for you to customize to expedite your communication with your Representative and Senators. Please email your letter and any feedback you receive from Congress to Stephanie Giesecke, NAICU's senior director of budget and appropriations, at Stephanie@naicu.edu.

Thank you for your participation in advocacy efforts to protect student aid for our nation's students and families.

Regards,

Barbara

Barbara K. Mistick, D.B.A.

President

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