

May 24, 2012

The Honorable Arne Duncan  
Secretary of Education  
U.S. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20202

Dear Mr. Secretary:

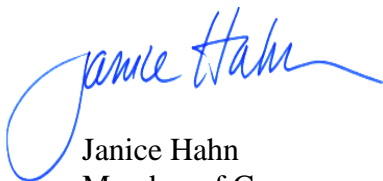
I am writing you today to express my concern over the Department of Education's recent proposal to cut funding to the McNair Scholars Program, one of the nation's premiere education outreach programs for minority and low-income students. It is my sincere hope that you reconsider the cuts made to this vital program that has allowed thousands of students to pursue their post-graduate education.

The McNair Scholars Program was developed to encourage and prepare thousands of low-income and minority students to pursue postgraduate study and careers in academia, especially in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) programs, as these fields are essential for our nation remaining globally competitive. Since the program's conception, about 2,500 McNair alumni have earned doctoral degrees at more than 200 institutions thanks to grants from the Department of Education.

Unfortunately, the Department's proposal to cut \$10 million from the federally funded TRIO program's \$46.2 million budget, under which the McNair program falls, could potentially cut more than a third of McNair programs and leave hundreds of students without the means to pursue a postgraduate degree. This would prove devastating to maintaining the diversity of our academic workforce as well as creating the educational opportunities needed to ensure the success of future generations.

In light of the potential impact these cuts could have on our nation's minority and low-income students, I hope you have a chance to reconsider this decision. I look forward to working with you to ensure our nation continues providing access to higher education for all those who wish to obtain it.

Sincerely,



Janice Hahn  
Member of Congress