

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 1, 2014

The Honorable Jack Kingston
Chairman, Subcommittee on
Labor, Health and Human Services,
Education and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
2358-B Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on
Labor, Health and Human Services,
Education and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Kingston and Ranking Member DeLauro:

We write, first and foremost, to thank you for restoring funds lost to TRIO under sequestration in the FY 2014 omnibus appropriations legislation. As you know, more than 31,000 low-income, first-generation students lost access to the intensive academic tutoring, college and career counseling, financial aid advising, personal mentoring and other life-changing services provided by TRIO under that austere fiscal policy. We hope that you will continue to give TRIO programs a high priority in the FY 2015 appropriations cycle. Prior to sequestration, TRIO suffered from years of stagnant funding that resulted in severe student losses. Now, we need to build on the momentum begun in FY 2014 and ensure greater access to critical services that support low-income, first-generation students who aspire to become the first members of their families to earn college degrees. FY 2015 presents the ideal opportunity to do so, as this appropriation will directly impact the number and size of grants awarded in the next TRIO Student Support Services grant competition.

Student Support Services – one of the original TRIO programs – focuses on college retention, transfer (as appropriate) and completion. Congress created this program out of its recognition that financial aid alone is insufficient to ensure advancement and that multiple factors work to prevent the successful completion of higher education for many low-income and first-generation undergraduates. The most recent evaluation of Student Support Services found that, after six years, Student Support Services participants had a Bachelor’s Degree attainment rate of 38%—24 percentage points higher than predicted if such students had not received any supplemental services. This finding is particularly noteworthy given that, by age 24, the Bachelor’s Degree attainment rate of students from the bottom income quartile was just 8.3% in 2012.

However FY 2015 is not just an opportunity to advance the cause of Student Support Services, but all other TRIO programs as well. Through its pre-college programs for youth (Talent Search, Upward Bound, and Upward Bound Math-Science), TRIO works with students as young as the sixth-grade to instill a desire and equip students with the tools necessary to go to college.

Through its adult education programs (Veterans Upward Bound, Educational Opportunity Centers), TRIO assists veterans and out-of-work or under-employed workers in re-entering the classroom. TRIO also provides support for undergraduates who aspire to pursue doctoral studies (McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement). Through each of these programs, TRIO touches every corner of the United States and serves every type of community – from urban to rural, from Native American reservations to federal territories.

By serving such a broad cross-section of students and communities, TRIO represents a sound investment for our entire nation. Therefore, we hope you will support our request for an increase in TRIO funding in FY 2015, so that the students of today will emerge as the highly educated, competitive workforce that will be needed tomorrow.

Sincerely,



Carol Shea-Porter
Member of Congress



Gwen Moore
Member of Congress



Donald M. Payne, Jr.
Member of Congress



John Lewis
Member of Congress



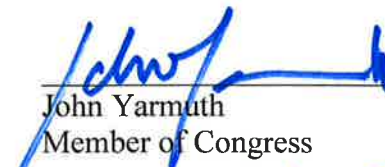
C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger
Member of Congress



Alcee L. Hastings
Member of Congress



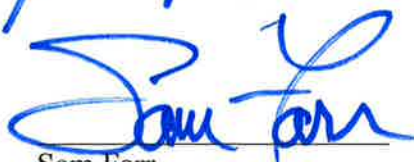
Rubén Hinojosa
Member of Congress




John Yarmuth
Member of Congress




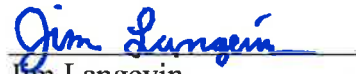
Frederica S. Wilson
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Corrine Brown
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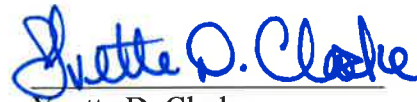

Niki Tsongas
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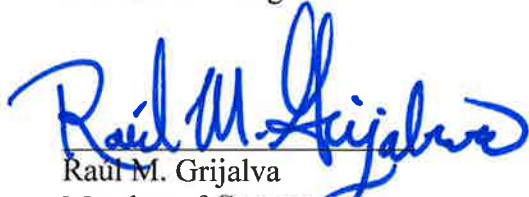

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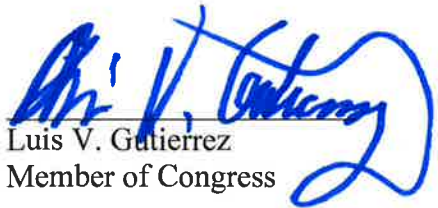

Yvette D. Clarke
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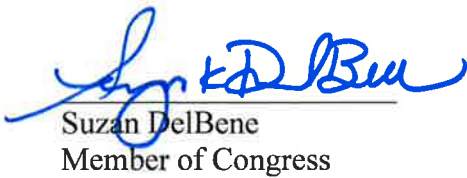

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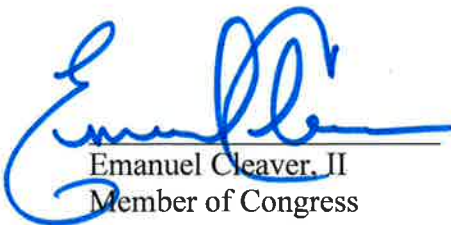

Louise M. Slaughter
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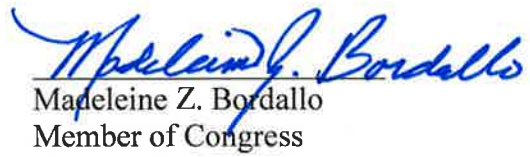

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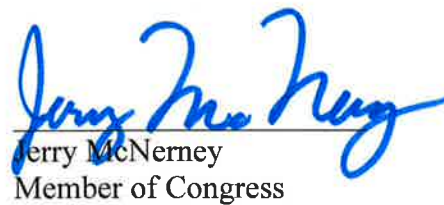

Emanuel Cleaver, II
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Sheila Jackson Lee
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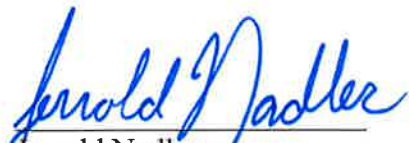

David Scott
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Mark Takano
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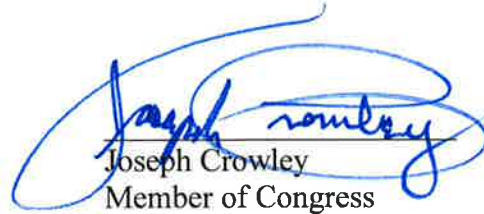

Chaka Fattah
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Mike Thompson
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Ferrol Nadler
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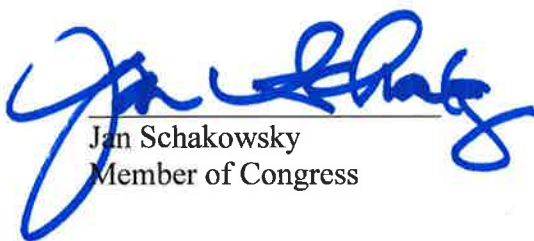

Keith Ellison
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Ben Ray Luján
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Joseph Crowley
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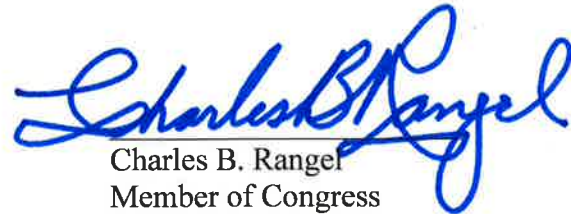

John Conyers Jr.
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Earl Blumenauer
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Jan Schakowsky
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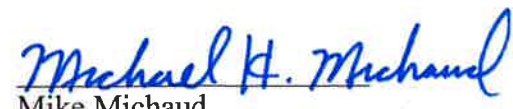

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Dina Titus
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Lois Frankel
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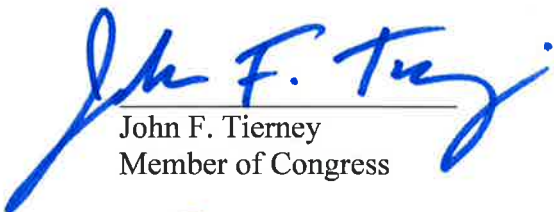
Ron Kind
Member of Congress



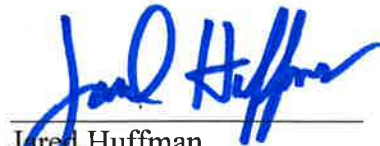
Gloria Negrete McLeod
Member of Congress



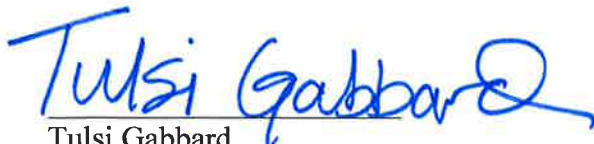
Andre Carson
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John F. Tierney
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Jared Huffman
Member of Congress



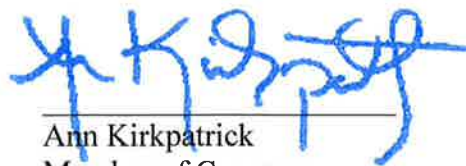
Tulsi Gabbard
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Colleen Hanabusa
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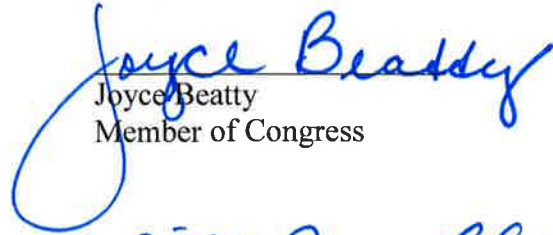
Steve Cohen
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Ann Kirkpatrick
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Pedro R. Pierluisi
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Joyce Beatty
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Adam Smith
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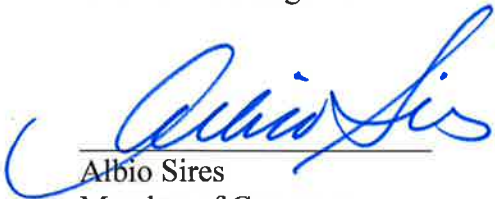
Bill Pascrell, Jr.
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Donna M. Christensen
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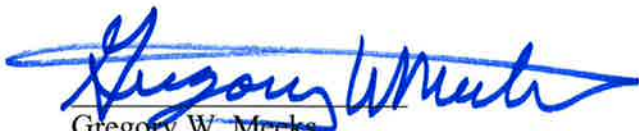
Eric Swalwell
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Albio Sires
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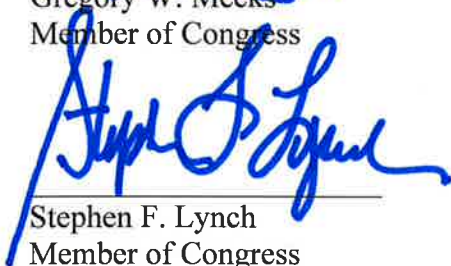
Collin C. Peterson
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Gregory W. Meeks
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Marc Veasey
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Stephen F. Lynch
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Juan Vargas
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Sean Patrick Maloney
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Tim Walz
Member of Congress



Gene Green
Member of Congress



William Keating
Member of Congress



Joaquin Castro
Member of Congress



William Owens
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Robert C. "Bobby" Scott
Member of Congress



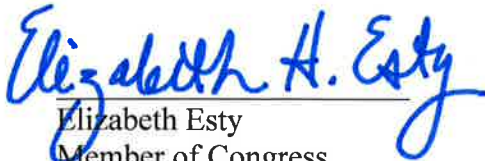
Alan Grayson
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Michael E. Capuano
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Alan Lowenthal
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Elizabeth Esty
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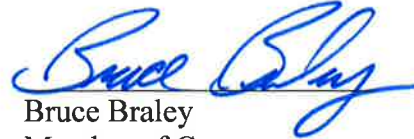
Mark Pocan
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Maxine Waters
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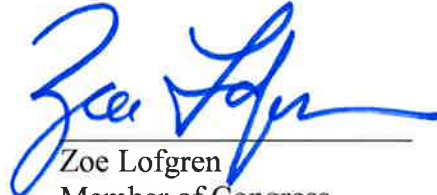
John P. Sarbanes
Member of Congress



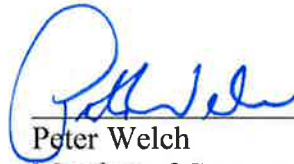
Bruce Braley
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Michelle Lujan Grisham
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Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress



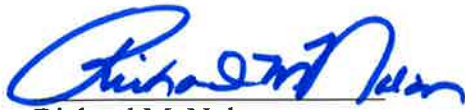
Peter Welch
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Matt Cartwright
Member of Congress



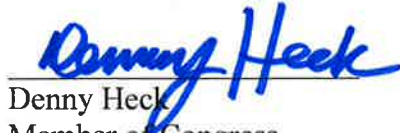
Pete P. Gallego
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Richard M. Nolan
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Karen Bass
Member of Congress



Denny Heck
Member of Congress



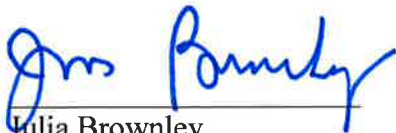
Katherine Clark
Member of Congress



Eliot L. Engel
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Bill Foster
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Julia Brownley
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Eni F. H. Faleomavaega
Member of Congress



Jim McDermott
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Richard E. Neal
Member of Congress



William L. Enyart
Member of Congress



Scott Peters
Member of Congress



David McKinley, PE
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Nick J. Rahall, II
Member of Congress



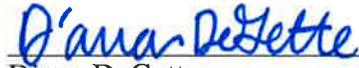
John Delaney
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Don Young
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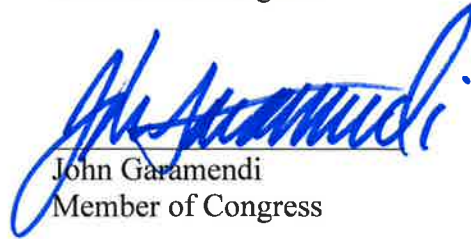
Peter DeFazio
Member of Congress



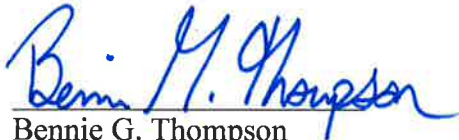
Diana DeGette
Member of Congress



Rush Holt
Member of Congress



John Garamendi
Member of Congress



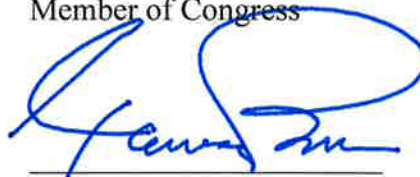
Bennie G. Thompson
Member of Congress



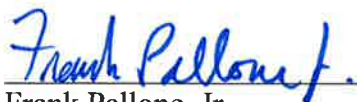
Beto O'Rourke
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Tom Cole
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Xavier Becerra
Member of Congress



Frank Pallone, Jr.
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Grace Meng
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Jim Himes
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Steve Israel
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Tim Bishop
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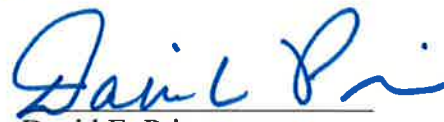

Steven Horsford
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Ron Barber
Member of Congress

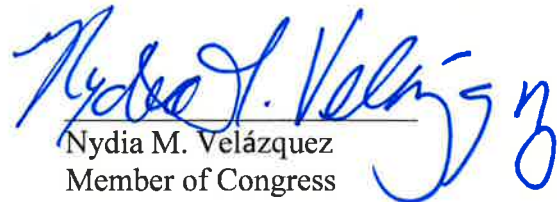

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