

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 8, 2021

The Honorable Patty Murray

The Honorable Roy Blunt

Chair

Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, and Education Appropriations
136 Senate Dirksen Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Ranking Member

Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, and Education Appropriations
156 Senate Dirksen Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chair Murray and Ranking Member Blunt:

We write to thank you for your strong support of the Federal TRIO Programs (TRIO) and to request that you provide robust funding for these programs in the fiscal year (FY) 2022 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations bill. In recent years, the Committee has provided strong support for the TRIO programs and the students they serve: low-income, first-generation students, students with disabilities, homeless youths, students in or exiting foster care, military veterans, English learners, unemployed adults, and students in rural communities. As you prepare your FY 2022 appropriations bill, we ask that you prioritize the academic, financial, and social supports provided by TRIO so that these students can benefit from these life-changing services.

The COVID-19 crisis has challenged every stage of our nation's education system, thus making the need for targeted investments in TRIO all the more urgent. In fall 2020, the college enrollment rate of students from high-poverty high schools plunged nearly one-third lower than the year before. Meanwhile, U.S. Census data reported that students in low-income families are twice as likely to drop out of community college during this crisis. As TRIO programs seek to address these challenges, we urge the Committee to continue to prioritize TRIO funding to help ensure students are prepared for, persist in, and graduate from college.

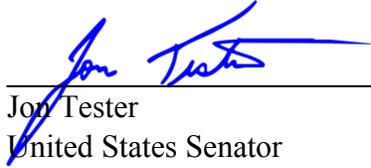
In FY22, the Department of Education will host grant competitions for four TRIO programs: Upward Bound, Upward Bound Math-Science, Veterans Upward Bound, and Ronald E. McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement. Upward Bound provides high school students with tutoring, mentoring and college counseling during the school year and a six-week residential college experience, all with the aim of improving college enrollment and attainment. Upward Bound Math-Science uses a similar model, with the goal of encouraging participants to pursue postsecondary degrees and careers in STEM fields. Veterans Upward Bound provides academic tutoring and counseling to help support military veterans' enrollment in and completion of postsecondary education. Finally, the Ronald E. McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement program provides undergraduates with opportunities for research, internships, seminars, tutoring, and academic counseling, with the goal of students from disadvantaged backgrounds earning doctoral degrees.

We appreciate the Committee's continued commitment to TRIO. Given the programs' proven success and the need to address higher education access, affordability, and completion, we respectfully request your support of robust funding for TRIO in FY 2022.

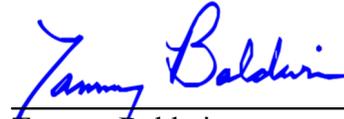
Sincerely,



Susan M. Collins
United States Senator



Jon Tester
United States Senator



Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator

/S/

Mike Crapo
United States Senator



Roger W. Marshall
United States Senator



Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator

/S/

James E. Risch
United States Senator



Raphael G. Warnock
United States Senator

/S/

Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator



Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator



Cory A. Booker
United States Senator



Sherrod Brown
United States Senator



Maria Cantwell
United States Senator



Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator



Thomas R. Carper
United States Senator



Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator

/S/

Bill Cassidy
United States Senator



Christopher A. Coons
United States Senator



John Cornyn
United States Senator



Catherine Cortez Masto
United States Senator



Kevin Cramer
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator



Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator



Charles E. Grassley
United States Senator



Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator



Martin Heinrich
United States Senator



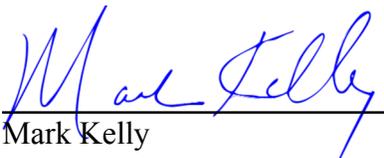
John Hickenlooper
United States Senator

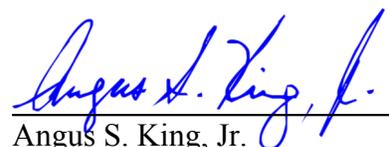


Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator

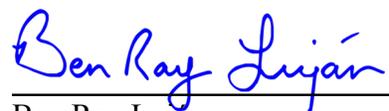


Tim Kaine
United States Senator

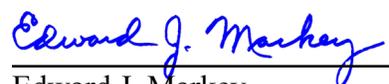

Mark Kelly
United States Senator


Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator


Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator


Ben Ray Lujan
United States Senator


Joe Manchin III
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Edward J. Markey
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Christopher S. Murphy
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Jon Ossoff
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Alex Padilla
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Gary C. Peters
United States Senator



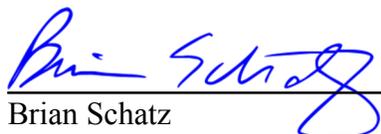
Jack Reed
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Jacky Rosen
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Bernard Sanders
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Brian Schatz
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Jeanne Shaheen
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Kyrsten Sinema
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Tina Smith
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Debbie Stabenow
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Dan Sullivan
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Chris Van Hollen
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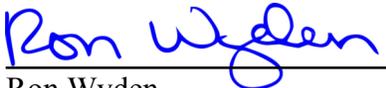
Mark R. Warner
United States Senator



Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator



Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator



Ron Wyden
United States Senator