

# 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,



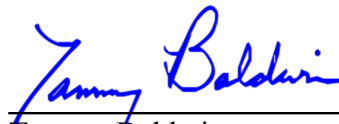
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Susan M. Collins  
United States Senator



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Jon Tester  
United States Senator



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Tammy Baldwin  
United States Senator

/S/

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Mike Crapo  
United States Senator



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Roger W. Marshall  
United States Senator



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Jeffrey A. Merkley  
United States Senator

/S/

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James E. Risch  
United States Senator



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Raphael G. Warnock  
United States Senator

/S/

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Michael F. Bennet  
United States Senator



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Richard Blumenthal  
United States Senator



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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



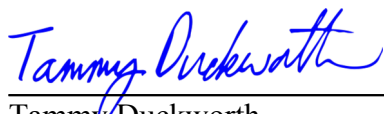
John Cornyn  
United States Senator



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



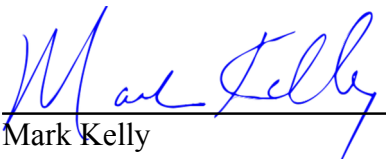
John Hickenlooper  
United States Senator



Mazie K. Hirono  
United States Senator

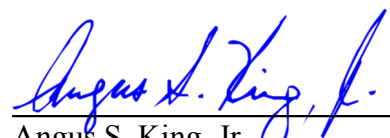


Tim Kaine  
United States Senator



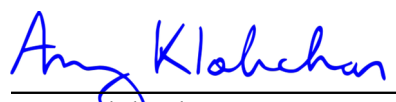
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Mark Kelly  
United States Senator



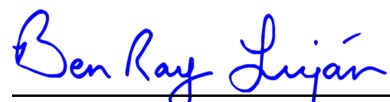
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Angus S. King, Jr.  
United States Senator




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Amy Klobuchar  
United States Senator



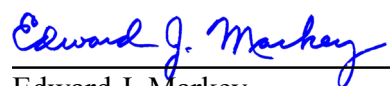
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Ben Ray Lujan  
United States Senator




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Joe Manchin III  
United States Senator




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Edward J. Markey  
United States Senator



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Robert Menendez  
United States Senator




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Christopher S. Murphy  
United States Senator



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Jon Ossoff  
United States Senator



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Alex Padilla  
United States Senator



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Gary C. Peters  
United States Senator



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Jack Reed  
United States Senator



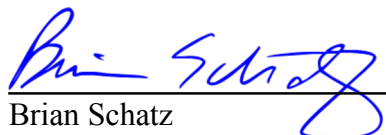
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Jacky Rosen  
United States Senator



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Bernard Sanders  
United States Senator



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Brian Schatz  
United States Senator



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Jeanne Shaheen  
United States Senator



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Kyrsten Sinema  
United States Senator



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Tina Smith  
United States Senator



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Debbie Stabenow  
United States Senator



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Dan Sullivan  
United States Senator

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Chris Van Hollen  
United States Senator

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mark R. Warner", written over a horizontal line.

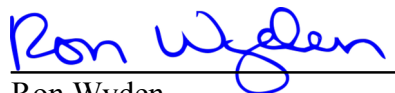
Mark R. Warner  
United States Senator

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Elizabeth Warren  
United States Senator

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Sheldon Whitehouse", written over a horizontal line.

Sheldon Whitehouse  
United States Senator

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ron Wyden", written over a horizontal line.

Ron Wyden  
United States Senator