

March 19, 2013

Dear Representative,

On behalf of the undersigned associations, representing two- and four-year public and private colleges and research universities, I write regarding the budget resolution passed by the House Budget Committee last week.

We share the Budget Committee's concern for the fiscal health of our nation. We believe one of the key elements to addressing the country's fiscal challenges is making sensible federal investments that will yield strong economic growth. As numerous nonpartisan experts have stated, sustained and significant federal investments in education, job training and scientific research, as well as infrastructure, are essential to the economic growth our nation needs to address its fiscal troubles.

Unfortunately, instead of investing in American students and scientists, the budget resolution passed out of committee last week would impose draconian cuts to discretionary spending, especially non-defense discretionary spending. Our nation invests in its future when it funds such areas as education and scientific research. We believe these cuts are the wrong path.

At a time when the benefits of a postsecondary education have never been more apparent, this budget would limit the opportunities available to a generation of Americans. In particular, we strongly oppose the resolution's goal of eliminating the currently scheduled increases in the maximum Pell Grant award, reducing Pell funding by \$86 billion over the next 10 years. In combination with additional limitations on eligibility and benefits, this budget resolution eliminates or reduces Pell Grants for millions of students. The sizable cuts in other available discretionary funding would result in the elimination or reduction of the other financial aid programs, compounding the harm caused by cutting Pell Grants.

In addition, by eliminating the federal student loan in-school interest exemption while also curtailing income-based repayment options, this budget resolution would result in significantly higher borrowing costs, while limiting the protections students have in repayment. Such steps would only serve to worsen student indebtedness.

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Further sharp reductions in discretionary funding would also exacerbate the damage to our nation's scientific research and innovation imposed by sequestration. Discoveries in university laboratories lead to innovations that drive our nation's economic growth. From developing the technologies for smart phones to mapping the human genome, research performed on university campuses has led to breakthrough after breakthrough, and our health, economy and security have all benefited. Cutting research investments is dangerous and will have lasting consequences for our nation and its ability to compete with other countries like India and China that continue to increase their investments in postsecondary education, workforce training and scientific research.

For these reasons, we cannot support the House budget resolution. Thank you for considering our views.

Sincerely,



Molly Corbett Broad
President

MCB/lbw

On behalf of:

American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers
American Association of Community Colleges
American Association of State Colleges and Universities
American Council on Education
Association of American Universities
Association of Community College Trustees
Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities
Association of Public and Land-grant Universities
Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities
National Association of College and University Business Officers
National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education
National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities
National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators
UNCF