

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 25, 2018

The Honorable Betsy DeVos
Secretary
Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue SW
Washington, DC 20202


Dear Secretary DeVos:

We write today regarding the allocation of additional funding for TRIO in fiscal year 2018. Congress recognizes the vital role that TRIO plays in helping students earn college degrees. That is why we provided an increase of \$60 million, or six percent, for these vital initiatives in the most recent omnibus appropriations agreement, which President Trump signed into law. In addition to funding applicants who were initially rejected for minor budget issues, as outlined in the report language accompanying the legislation, we are eager to see this additional funding go to TRIO grantees around the country so they can increase the number of students who benefit from their services.

We were therefore disappointed to learn of your Department's plan to provide only a two to three percent funding increase to existing TRIO grantees, despite the six percent funding increase Congress granted. Additionally, we are very concerned to hear that the Department intends to force TRIO grantees to go through another burdensome, bureaucratic application process to access the additional funds provided by Congress. Many of these grantees went through the competitive application process as recently as the previous fiscal year. TRIO grantees should be focusing on supporting students and helping them excel, not vying to access the funding Congress wants them to have.

We urge you to respect this Congressional intent and provide a substantial funding increase to all current TRIO grantees, without unnecessary bureaucratic strings attached. We request that you capitalize on this unique opportunity to provide a significant and much-needed boost across the TRIO programs. By doing so, you can help ensure that our next generation of leaders has every opportunity they need to succeed. We appreciate your attention to this request and look forward to your response.

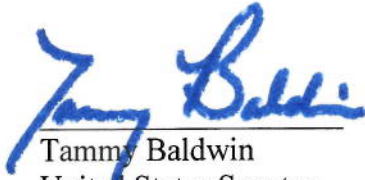
Sincerely,



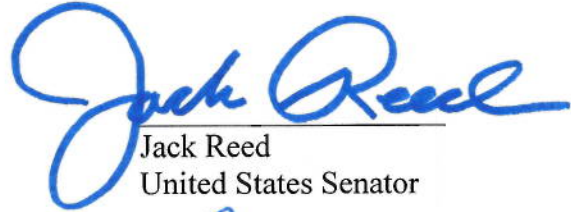
Jon Tester
United States Senator



Joe Manchin III
United States Senator



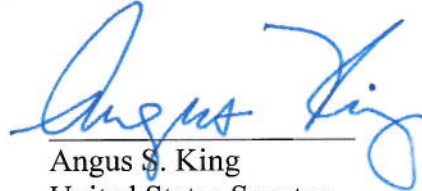
Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator



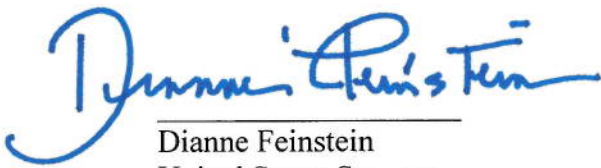
Jack Reed
United States Senator



Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator



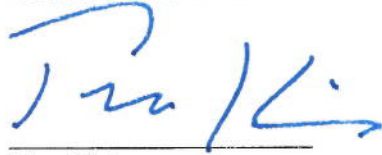
Angus S. King
United States Senator



Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator



Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator



Tim Kaine
United States Senator



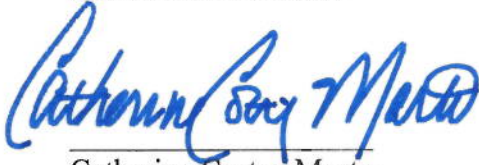
Heidi Heitkamp
United States Senator




Maria Cantwell
United States Senator



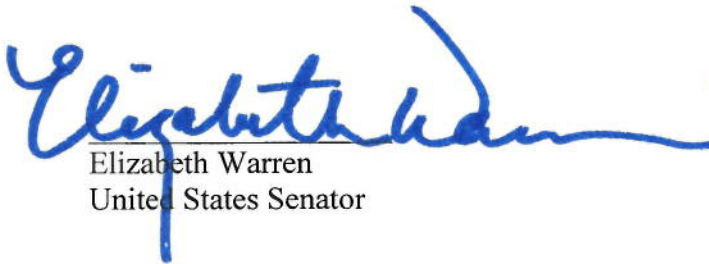
Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator



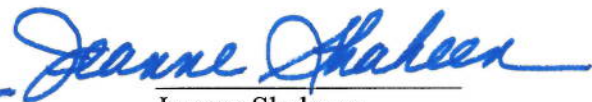
Catherine Cortez Masto
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator



Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator



Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator