

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 14, 2006

The Honorable Ralph Regula, Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS and Education
House Appropriations Committee
2358 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable David Obey, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS and Education
House Appropriations Committee
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Regula and Ranking Member Obey:

We are writing to bring to your attention our strong support for the TRIO programs. As you are aware, TRIO is one of the nation's most important educational initiatives designed to advance equal educational opportunity in America's colleges and universities. The elimination of TRIO's Talent Search and Upward Bound programs, as suggested in President Bush's FY 2007 Budget Proposal, would not only deny thousands of students the necessary support in enrolling in college, it would widen the gap between low-income, first-generation students and their peers.

These two TRIO programs, along with the other TRIO programs, are vital to ensuring every student has a chance to receive a meaningful education. Restoring Talent Search and Upward Bound in addition to providing increased support for all programs will allow TRIO to maintain existing services and expand its capacity to reach additional students. **Therefore, we strongly urge you in the FY 2007 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations bill to not only restore the Talent Search and Upward Bound programs, but also to increase funding for TRIO by \$100 million.**

The Higher Education Act of 1965 demonstrated our nation's commitment to providing educational opportunities for all Americans regardless of race, ethnic background or economic circumstance. In support of this commitment, Congress established a series of programs—the TRIO programs. More than 1,200 colleges, universities and agencies offer TRIO Programs throughout the United States and an estimated two million TRIO students have college degrees.

The Subcommittee is to be commended for its strong commitment to TRIO over the past few years, as it has expanded access to higher education. While we understand the need to balance priorities, we hope you will agree that the TRIO Programs are critical to the success of many of our nation's youth and support these programs in the Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations bill.

Thank you for considering our request with regard to the TRIO Programs in Fiscal Year 2007. We look forward to working with you to support these important programs.

Sincerely,



Tom Cole
Member of Congress



Donald M. Payne
Member of Congress