

December 17, 2013

Dear Senator,

On behalf of the higher education associations listed below, we write to support passage of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013. This bill would provide needed stability to federal funding, and is a positive step toward reversing some of the detrimental cuts of sequestration in fiscal years 2014 and 2015. It would also reduce the deficit without directly harming the programs that are needed for sustained economic growth.

While the bill only partially mitigates sequestration, it allows Congress to conduct appropriations in regular order for the next two years. Very importantly, this bill does not further cut student aid programs to pay for deficit reduction as has repeatedly happened in the last few years.

If enacted, this legislation would allow Congress to fund the programs that drive our economy. By preserving and enhancing student aid programs like the Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant Program, the Federal Work-Study Program, TRIO and GEAR UP, we prepare our workforce to be globally competitive. By restoring cuts and increasing funding for the National Institutes of Health and the National Science Foundation, among other federal science agencies, Congress can start to close the growing innovation deficit between the United States and our foreign competitors.

The Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013 is a sensible, balanced and bipartisan approach that helps to address our nation's fiscal challenges. It would allow Congress to begin to undo the damage caused to federal student aid and research programs imposed by sequestration. Moreover, the bill would help boost our economy in both the short- and long-term. We urge you to support this bill and vote in favor of its passage.

Sincerely,



Molly Corbett Broad
President

MCB/ldw

Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013
December 17, 2013

On behalf of:

American Association of Community Colleges
American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers
American Association of State Colleges and Universities
American Council on Education
American Indian Higher Education Consortium
Association of American Universities
Association of Community College Trustees
Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges
Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities
Association of Public and Land-grant Universities
Council for Christian Colleges & Universities
Council for Higher Education Accreditation
Council for Opportunity in Education
Council of Graduate Schools
EDUCAUSE
Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities
National Association of College and University Business Officers
National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities
National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators