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Chairwoman



ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT, VA
Ranking Member

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
AND THE WORKFORCE
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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July 19, 2017

The Honorable Rodney Frelinghuysen
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nita M. Lowey
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
Subcommittee on the Departments of Labor,
Health and Human Services, Education, and
Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa L. DeLauro
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on the Departments of Labor,
Health and Human Services, Education, and
Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Frelinghuysen, Ranking Member Lowey, Chairman Cole, and Ranking Member DeLauro:

Every American should have access to a meaningful degree at an affordable cost that leads to a good-paying job. Higher education remains the surest equalizer of economic opportunity in America, and the federal government has long recognized that providing access to higher education is in the national interest. Pell Grants – the foundation of federal financial aid for low-income students – are critical to this effort.

We are therefore greatly disappointed with the \$3.3 billion cut to the Pell Grant Program proposed in the FY18 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education (LHHS) funding bill. If Congress enacts this cut, the federal government will have reduced funding for low-income college students by \$4.6 billion over the last two fiscal years. As the House Committee on Appropriations continues to work on its LHHS bill, we strongly oppose any harmful cuts to Pell funding in this year's appropriations vehicle that will make college more expensive for students in future years.

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This proposed cut imperils the affordability of college for low-income students both now and in the future. The Committee on Education and the Workforce is poised to consider a comprehensive reauthorization of the Higher Education Act. Without these reserve funds, the ability to raise the maximum Pell Grant award, which currently covers less than a third of the cost of attendance at a four-year public college, or enact other improvements to college affordability will be nearly impossible.

As we said in a letter when Pell Grant reserve funds were cut last year, the LHHS appropriations bill should not balance other funding needs on the backs of low-income college students. Making college less affordable for low-income students is not a viable solution to our fiscal problems.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



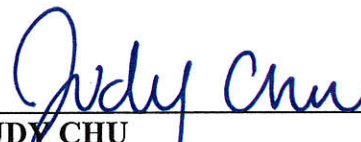
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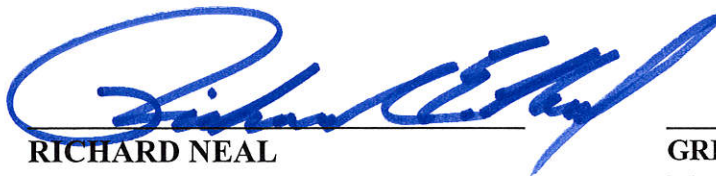
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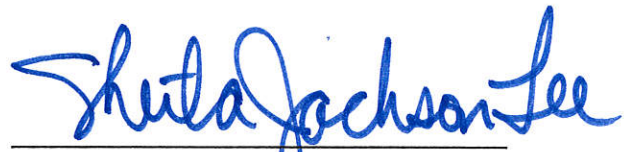
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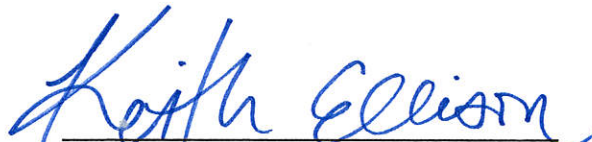
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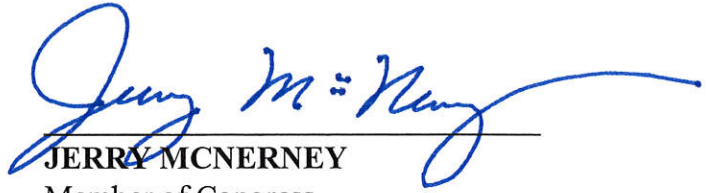


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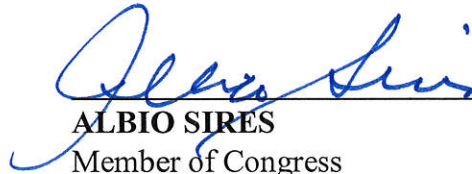
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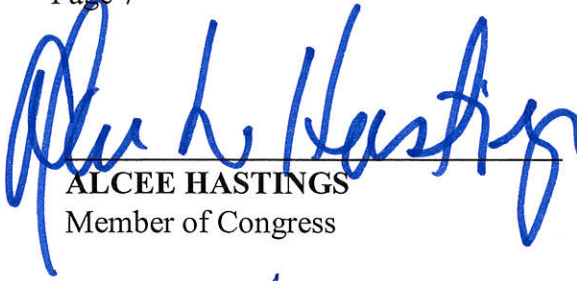
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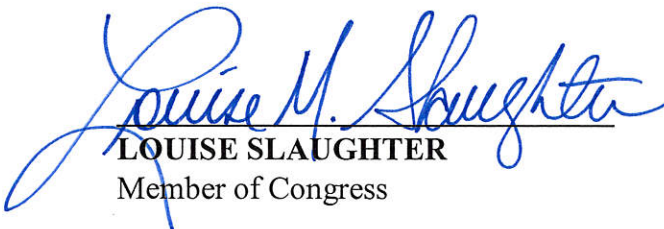
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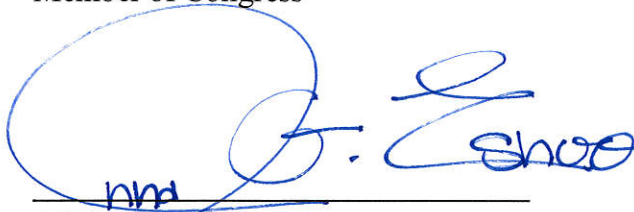
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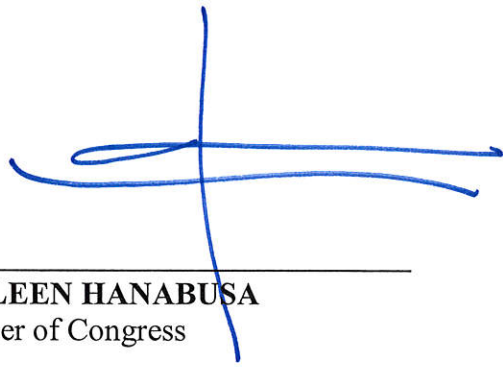
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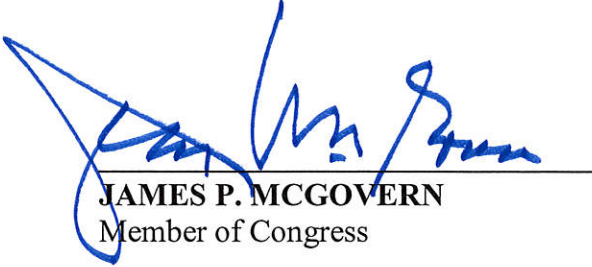
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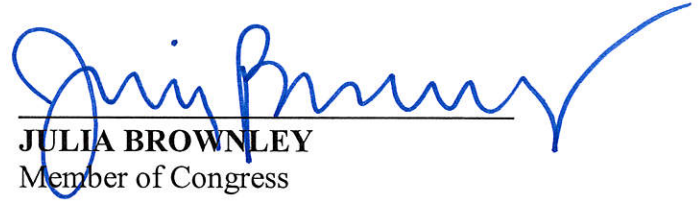
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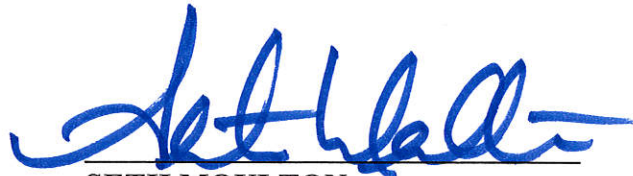
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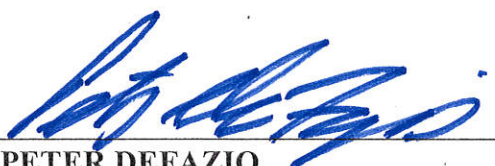
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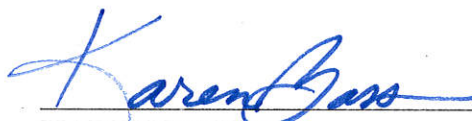
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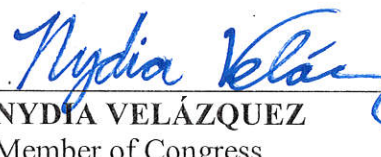
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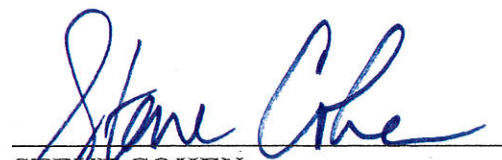
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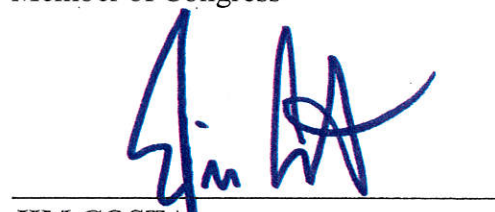
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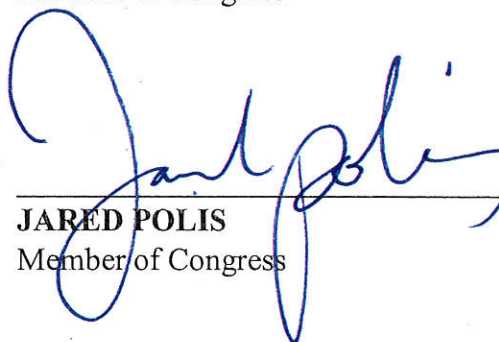
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