

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

February 23, 2017

Dear Colleague,

As the co-chairs of the bipartisan and bicameral Congressional TRIO Caucus, we invite you to join us in supporting the vital work of the federal TRIO programs. TRIO programs throughout the country ensure that low-income students, especially those who are the first in their families to attend college, can succeed in higher education. The TRIO Caucus assists our legislative body in continuing that very promise, namely by supporting the life-changing support services provided by TRIO to more than 800,000 students nationwide.

More than 100 Members of Congress belong to the TRIO Caucus, and together we advocate for increased awareness of and investments in the TRIO programs that serve students from middle school through adult education. We collaborate on issues that directly affect low-income, first-generation college students, such as financial aid, financial literacy, persistence through degree completion, and workforce development. We facilitate communication across congressional offices, the Department of Education, state TRIO directors, and advocacy organizations. We sponsor briefings that highlight current and former TRIO alumni, lead appropriations support letters, and promote the ideal of equal opportunity in higher education for all students regardless of their backgrounds.

During this session of Congress, we look forward to showcasing the great work of TRIO programs in our states and to working with you to ensure that TRIO continues to provide educational opportunities for students for generations to come. If you wish to join the Congressional TRIO Caucus, please contact Katie Brown at katie_brown@collins.senate.gov, Hannah VanHoose at Hannah_vanhoose@tester.senate.gov, James Neill at james.neill@mail.house.gov, or Izmira Aitch at izmira.aitch@mail.house.gov.

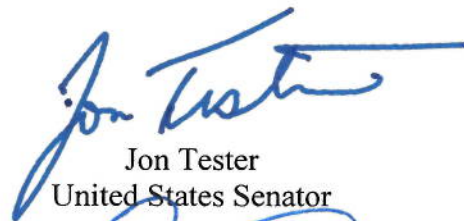
Sincerely,



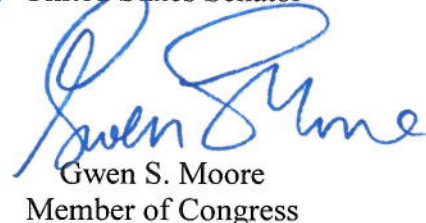
Susan M. Collins
United States Senator



Mike Simpson
Member of Congress



Jon Tester
United States Senator



Gwen S. Moore
Member of Congress