

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **RECORD NUMBER OF BIPARTISAN LEGISLATORS CALL FOR INCREASE IN FUNDING FOR FEDERAL TRIO PROGRAMS**

*Federal TRIO Programs assist low-income, first-generation students and students with disabilities as well as other marginalized groups prepare for and enter college.*

WASHINGTON, D.C. (April 28, 2021)—The non-profit Council for Opportunity in Education announced today that a record number of TRIO supporters in the House of Representatives joined a “sign-on” letter urging the leaders of the House Appropriations Committee to increase the nation’s investment in the Federal TRIO Programs (TRIO). Rooted in the Civil Rights Movement and authorized by the Higher Education Act, TRIO programs provide personal mentoring and advising, academic support, and financial counseling to help first-generation and low-income students, as well as students with disabilities, military veterans and other underrepresented students to prepare for, enroll in, and graduate from college.

In FY 2022, the TRIO community is asking Congress to support a robust funding increase, with the goal of ultimately serving at least a million more students annually. With programs assisting students in virtually every Congressional District, the breadth of TRIO’s reach manifests in the depth of its support across ideological lines. Co-led by Representatives Gwen Moore (D-WI), Christopher Smith (R-NJ), Donald Payne, Jr. (D-NJ), and Vicky Hartzler (R-MO), the TRIO Appropriations letter acquired signatures from 248 Congressmen and Congresswomen—more than half of the members of the U.S. House of Representatives. Signatories included 72 Republicans and the leadership of the House Republican Conference, House Democratic Caucus, National Republican Congressional Committee (NRCC), Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee (DCCC), Congressional Black Caucus (CBC), Congressional Hispanic Caucus (CHC), Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus (CAPAC), New Democrat Coalition, and Congressional Progressive Caucus (CPC).

Maureen Hoyler, COE president, said, “The TRIO programs are critically important to students in families in red and blue states alike and they enjoy profound bipartisan support from Members of Congress, many of whom are program alums.” Currently, five TRIO alumni serve in the U.S. Congress; they are Senator Raphael Warnock (D-

GA) and Representatives Gwen Moore (D-WI), Steven Horsford (D-NV), Ilhan Omar (D-MN), and Nikema Williams (D-GA). Past TRIO alumni who have served in Congress include former Representative Henry Bonilla (R-TX).

The full text of the House letter and list of signers follows.

*The Council for Opportunity in Education (COE) is a nonprofit organization, established in 1981, dedicated to furthering the expansion of college opportunities for low-income, first-generation students, and students with disabilities. Through its numerous membership services, the Council works in conjunction with colleges, universities, and agencies that host Federal TRIO Programs that help more than 800,000 low-income students and students with disabilities each year receive college access and retention services.*

### **Full Text of House Letter Requesting a Robust Increase in TRIO Appropriations for FY22:**

Dear [House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, HHS, Education, and Related Agencies] Chair DeLauro and Ranking Member Cole:

We write to **thank you for your strong support of the Federal TRIO Programs (TRIO)** and to request that you provide a robust increase for these programs in the fiscal year (FY) 2022 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations bill. In recent years, your Subcommittee has provided significant levels of support for the TRIO programs and the students they serve: low-income, first-generation students, students with disabilities, homeless youths, students in or exiting foster care, military veterans, English learners, unemployed adults, and students in rural communities. As you prepare your FY 2022 appropriations bill, we ask that, once again, you prioritize the academic, financial, and social supports provided by TRIO so that even more students can benefit from these life-changing services.

The COVID-19 crisis has ravaged every stage of our education system, thus making the need for targeted investments in TRIO all the more urgent. The National Student Clearinghouse Research Center reported that, in fall 2020, the **college enrollment rate of students from high-poverty high schools plunged nearly one-third lower than the year before**. Meanwhile, U.S. Census data showed that **students in low-income families are twice as likely to drop out of community college during this crisis**. Without TRIO's individualized counseling, advising, and support, an entire generation of low-income, first-generation students may be lost. A strong boost in FY22 funding would expand TRIO to allow more students to prepare for, persist in, and graduate from college.

TRIO is ripe for investment in FY 2022, as the Department of Education will host grant competitions for four TRIO programs -- Upward Bound, Upward Bound Math-Science,

Veterans Upward Bound, and Ronald E. McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement. **Upward Bound** provides high school students with tutoring, mentoring and college counseling during the school year and a six-week residential college experience, all with the aim of improving college enrollment and attainment. **Upward Bound Math-Science** uses a similar model, with the goal of encouraging participants to pursue postsecondary degrees and careers in STEM fields. **Veterans Upward Bound** provides academic tutoring and counseling to help support military veterans' enrollment in and completion of postsecondary education. Finally, **Ronald E. McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement** provides undergraduates with opportunities for research, internships, seminars, tutoring, and academic counseling, with the goal of students from disadvantaged backgrounds earning doctoral degrees.

A funding increase for TRIO in FY22 will also support TRIO **Student Support Services**, which promotes college retention and attainment for low-income, first-generation undergraduates and students with disabilities; **Talent Search**, which provides college outreach services to low-income middle and high school students; and **Educational Opportunity Centers**, which assist unemployed and low-income adults in re-entering the education pipeline.

We appreciate the Committee's continued commitment to TRIO. Given the programs' proven success and the need to address higher education access, affordability, and completion, we respectfully request your support of a robust funding increase for TRIO in FY 2022.

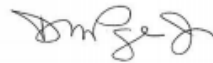
Sincerely,



Gwen Moore  
Member of Congress



Christopher H. Smith  
Member of Congress



Donald M. Payne, Jr.  
Member of Congress



Vicky Hartzler  
Member of Congress

**Full List of House Signers by State and District:**

First	Last	Party	State-District
Don	Young	R	AK-1
Barry	Moore	R	AL-2
Michael D.	Rogers	R	AL-3
Terri A.	Sewell	D	AL-7
Rick	Crawford	R	AR-1
Bruce	Westerman	R	AR-4
Aumua Amata Coleman	Radewagen	R	AS-1

Tom	O'Halleran	D	AZ-1
Raul M.	Grijalva	D	AZ-3
Ruben	Gallego	D	AZ-7
Greg	Stanton	D	AZ-9
John	Garamendi	D	CA-3
Mike	Thompson	D	CA-5
Doris	Matsui	D	CA-6
Ami	Bera	D	CA-7
Jay	Oberholte	R	CA-8
Jerry	McNerney	D	CA-9
Mark	DeSaulnier	D	CA-11
Barbara	Lee	D	CA-13
Jackie	Speier	D	CA-14
Eric	Swalwell	D	CA-15
Jim	Costa	D	CA-16
Ro	Khanna	D	CA-17
Anna G.	Eshoo	D	CA-18
Zoe	Lofgren	D	CA-19
Jimmy	Panetta	D	CA-20
Salud O.	Carbajal	D	CA-24
Julia	Brownley	D	CA-26
Judy	Chu	D	CA-27
Tony	Cárdenas	D	CA-29
Brad	Sherman	D	CA-30
Grace F.	Napolitano	D	CA-32
Ted	Lieu	D	CA-33
Jimmy	Gomez	D	CA-34
Raul	Ruiz	D	CA-36
Karen	Bass	D	CA-37
Linda T.	Sánchez	D	CA-38
Young	Kim	R	CA-39
Lucille	Roybal-Allard	D	CA-40
Mark	Takano	D	CA-41
Maxine	Waters	D	CA-43
Nanette Diaz	Barragán	D	CA-44
Katie	Porter	D	CA-45
Alan S.	Lowenthal	D	CA-47
Mike	Levin	D	CA-49
Juan	Vargas	D	CA-51
Scott H.	Peters	D	CA-52

Sara	Jacobs	D	CA-53
Diana	DeGette	D	CO-1
Joseph	Neguse	D	CO-2
Jason	Crow	D	CO-6
John B.	Larson	D	CT-1
Joseph	Courtney	D	CT-2
James A.	Himes	D	CT-4
Jahana	Hayes	D	CT-5
Lisa	Blunt Rochester	D	DE-1
Neal	Dunn	R	FL-2
Al	Lawson	D	FL-5
Bill	Posey	R	FL-8
Darren	Soto	D	FL-9
Val Butler	Demings	D	FL-10
Gus Michael	Bilirakis	R	FL-12
C. Scott	Franklin	R	FL-15
Alcee L.	Hastings	D	FL-20
Theodore	Deutch	D	FL-22
Frederica S.	Wilson	D	FL-24
Carlos	Gimenez	R	FL-26
María Elvira	Salazar	R	FL-27
Earl	Carter	R	GA-1
Sanford D.	Bishop	D	GA-2
Henry C.	Johnson	D	GA-4
Nikema	Williams	D	GA-5
Lucy	McBath	D	GA-6
Austin	Scott	R	GA-8
Jody B.	Hice	R	GA-10
David A.	Scott	D	GA-13
Michael F.Q.	San Nicolas	D	GU-1
Kaiali'i	Kahele	D	HI-2
Mariannette	Miller-Meeks	R	IA-2
Cynthia	Axne	D	IA-3
Randy	Feenstra	R	IA-4
Bobby L.	Rush	D	IL-1
Robin L.	Kelly	D	IL-2
Marie	Newman	D	IL-3
Jesús G.	García	D	IL-4
Sean	Casten	D	IL-6

Danny K.	Davis	D	IL-7
Raja	Krishnamoorthi	D	IL-8
Janice D.	Schakowsky	D	IL-9
Bill	Foster	D	IL-11
Mike	Bost	R	IL-12
Rodney	Davis	R	IL-13
Cheri	Bustos	D	IL-17
Frank	Mrvan	D	IN-1
André	Carson	D	IN-7
Larry	Bucshon	R	IN-8
Sharice	Davids	D	KS-3
James	Comer	R	KY-1
John A.	Yarmuth	D	KY-3
Garland	Barr	R	KY-6
Richard E.	Neal	D	MA-1
James P.	McGovern	D	MA-2
Lori	Trahan	D	MA-3
Jake	Auchincloss	D	MA-4
Seth	Moulton	D	MA-6
Ayanna	Pressley	D	MA-7
Stephen F.	Lynch	D	MA-8
Bill	Keating	D	MA-9
John P.	Sarbanes	D	MD-3
Anthony G.	Brown	D	MD-4
Jamin B.	Raskin	D	MD-8
Chellie	Pingree	D	ME-1
Jared	Golden	D	ME-2
Jack	Bergman	R	MI-1
Bill	Huizenga	R	MI-2
Peter	Meijer	R	MI-3
Daniel T.	Kildee	D	MI-5
Fred	Upton	R	MI-6
Elissa	Slotkin	D	MI-8
Andy	Levin	D	MI-9
Haley M.	Stevens	D	MI-11
Debbie	Dingell	D	MI-12
Rashida	Tlaib	D	MI-13
Jim	Hagedorn	R	MN-1
Angela	Craig	D	MN-2
Dean	Phillips	D	MN-3

Ilhan	Omar	D	MN-5
Tom	Emmer	R	MN-6
Peter	Stauber	R	MN-8
Cori	Bush	D	MO-1
Blaine	Luetkemeyer	R	MO-3
Vicky	Hartzler	R	MO-4
Emanuel	Cleaver	D	MO-5
Sam	Graves	R	MO-6
Billy	Long	R	MO-7
Jason	Smith	R	MO-8
Gregorio Kilili C.	Sablan	I	MP-1
Trent	Kelly	R	MS-1
George K.	Butterfield	D	NC-1
Deborah	Ross	D	NC-2
Kathy	Manning	D	NC-6
Madison	Cawthorn	R	NC-11
Alma S.	Adams	D	NC-12
Donald	Bacon	R	NE-2
Christopher	Pappas	D	NH-1
Ann M.	Kuster	D	NH-2
Donald W.	Norcross	D	NJ-1
Jefferson	Van Drew	R	NJ-2
Andy	Kim	D	NJ-3
Christopher H.	Smith	R	NJ-4
Joshua	Gottheimer	D	NJ-5
Frank	Pallone	D	NJ-6
Tom	Malinowski	D	NJ-7
Albio	Sires	D	NJ-8
Bill	Pascrell	D	NJ-9
Donald M.	Payne	D	NJ-10
Mikie	Sherrill	D	NJ-11
Teresa	Leger Fernandez	D	NM-3
Dina	Titus	D	NV-1
Steven	Horsford	D	NV-4
Andrew	Garbarino	R	NY-2
Thomas R.	Suoizzi	D	NY-3
Kathleen M.	Rice	D	NY-4
Gregory W.	Meeks	D	NY-5
Nydia M.	Velázquez	D	NY-7

Hakeem	Jeffries	D	NY-8
Yvette Diane	Clarke	D	NY-9
Jerrold	Nadler	D	NY-10
Carolyn B.	Maloney	D	NY-12
Alexandria	Ocasio-Cortez	D	NY-14
Ritchie	Torres	D	NY-15
Jamaal	Bowman	D	NY-16
Mondaire	Jones	D	NY-17
Sean Patrick	Maloney	D	NY-18
Antonio	Delgado	D	NY-19
Paul	Tonko	D	NY-20
Elise	Stefanik	R	NY-21
Claudia	Tenney	R	NY-22
John	Katko	R	NY-24
Joseph D.	Morelle	D	NY-25
Brian	Higgins	D	NY-26
Christopher	Jacobs	R	NY-27
Joyce	Beatty	D	OH-3
Bill	Johnson	R	OH-6
Steve	Stivers	R	OH-15
Anthony	Gonzalez	R	OH-16
Markwayne	Mullin	R	OK-2
Frank D.	Lucas	R	OK-3
Stephanie	Bice	R	OK-5
Suzanne	Bonamici	D	OR-1
Earl	Blumenauer	D	OR-3
Peter A.	DeFazio	D	OR-4
Kurt	Schrader	D	OR-5
Brian K.	Fitzpatrick	R	PA-1
Brendan F.	Boyle	D	PA-2
Dwight	Evans	D	PA-3
Madeleine	Dean	D	PA-4
Mary Gay	Scanlon	D	PA-5
Christina	Houlahan	D	PA-6
Susan	Wild	D	PA-7
Daniel	Meuser	R	PA-9
Fred	Keller	R	PA-12
Glenn	Thompson	R	PA-15
Mike	Kelly	R	PA-16
Conor	Lamb	D	PA-17



Michael F.	Doyle	D	PA-18
Jennifer	González-Colón	R	PR-1
David	Cicilline	D	RI-1
James R.	Langevin	D	RI-2
Tom	Rice	R	SC-7
Dustin	Johnson	R	SD-1
Diana	Harshbarger	R	TN-1
Stephen I.	Cohen	D	TN-9
Louie	Gohmert	R	TX-1
Pat	Fallon	R	TX-4
Al	Green	D	TX-9
Michael T.	McCaul	R	TX-10
Randy	Weber	R	TX-14
Vicente	Gonzalez	D	TX-15
Veronica	Escobar	D	TX-16
Pete	Sessions	R	TX-17
Sheila	Jackson Lee	D	TX-18
Joaquin	Castro	D	TX-20
Sylvia	Garcia	D	TX-29
Eddie Bernice	Johnson	D	TX-30
Colin Z.	Allred	D	TX-32
Marc A.	Veasey	D	TX-33
Filemon	Vela	D	TX-34
Lloyd	Doggett	D	TX-35
Brian	Babin	R	TX-36
Blake	Moore	R	UT-1
Elaine	Luria	D	VA-2
A. Donald	McEachin	D	VA-4
Gerald E.	Connolly	D	VA-11
Stacey E.	Plaskett	D	VI-1
Peter F.	Welch	D	VT-1
Suzan K.	DelBene	D	WA-1
Rick	Larsen	D	WA-2
Cathy McMorris	Rodgers	R	WA-5
Pramila	Jayapal	D	WA-7
Kim	Schrier	D	WA-8
Adam	Smith	D	WA-9
Marilyn	Strickland	D	WA-10
Ron	Kind	D	WI-3

Gwen	Moore	D	WI-4
David B.	McKinley	R	WV-1
Carol D.	Miller	R	WV-3
Liz	Cheney	R	WY-1

Note: more than a dozen additional U.S. Representatives in both parties have committed to include TRIO in their private request to the Appropriations Committee, but have a policy against signing any public appropriations letters.