



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

March 13, 2020

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chairwoman
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS & Education
Committee on Appropriations
United States Congress
2413 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Cole
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS & Education
Committee on Appropriations
United States Congress
2467 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwomen DeLauro and Ranking Member Cole,

As you prepare for fiscal Year 2021 (FY21) Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, we strongly encourage the committee to include report language that expresses support for first-generation students and directs the Department of Education (Department) to conduct a report focused on improving outcomes for first-generation students.

Those who are the first in their families to attend college have a unique set of needs, and while a number of programs under this committee's jurisdiction direct resources towards first-generation students throughout higher education, there is a lack of infrastructure in place to ensure these students can successfully graduate.

First-generation students make up 30% of the college population, but one in three will drop out from school early. Around 90% of first-generation students in low-income families will not graduate within six years. As our federal government looks to improve outcomes for all students, we must ensure that first-generation students have the proper networks of support while they pursue and attend institutions of higher education.

We thank the Committee for their attention to first-generation college students respectfully urge the committee to once again include the following report language:

Resources for First Generation College Students. -- First generation students comprise nearly a third of all college students, yet there is a lack of dedicated support services to ensure successful outcomes for such students. Given the Department's vested interest in ensuring successful outcomes for first generation students, the Committee directs the Department to

provide a report to the Committees on Appropriations, within 180 days of enactment of this Act, on improving the effectiveness of current federal policy in supporting first generation students.

Expressing the need for specific resources for first-generation students, and directing the Department to conduct this report, will help a significant population of students as they continue their educational pursuits. Thank you for considering this request.

Sincerely,



Brendan F. Boyle
Member of Congress

Member of Congress

First-Generation Student Report Language, FY 2021

List of Signatories

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