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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
JIMMY GOMEZ
34TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
Subcommittee on Tax
Subcommittee on Worker and Family
Support

DEPUTY WHIP FOR POLICY

CONGRESSIONAL DADS CAUCUS
Founder & Chair

CONGRESSIONAL RENTERS CAUCUS
Founder & Chair

The Honorable Linda McMahon
Secretary of Education
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20202

The Honorable Russell Vought
Director of the Office of Management and Budget
Office of Management and Budget
725 17th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20503

September 29, 2025

Dear Secretary McMahon and Director Vought,

I am writing to raise urgent concerns about the cancellation of grants and delaying of funds for higher education institutions. Specifically, the Department of Education has needlessly delayed and rescinded federal funding for TRIO programs that serve over 800,000 students annually. Furthermore, the Department of Education has abruptly eliminated federal grants for Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs) across the United States, limiting significant resources for these universities. Together, these programs make higher education more accessible for both low-income and minority students. I call on the Department to reverse course immediately and end the targeting of federal funding for universities that uplift minority students and students from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Federal TRIO programs at colleges and universities provide critical support and mentorship for students from disadvantaged, often low-income backgrounds since the 1960s. Today, TRIO has expanded to include seven different programs across hundreds of colleges and universities in the United States, each playing a unique role in the development, support and advancement of students. These students are often the first in their families to attend college, breaking generational barriers in access to education. Evidence has shown that these programs are highly effective, students who complete a TRIO program are more likely to attend and complete college relative to their peers. TRIO programs have played a key role in generating upward mobility, fostering career development, and supporting economic advancement.

Disappointingly, the Trump Administration has withheld federal funding for thousands of TRIO programs with start dates of September 1st, potentially jeopardizing the future of TRIO. Because of these actions, many colleges and universities will have no funding available to operate their TRIO programs, hurting students across the country. Early this year, TRIO programs with start dates on June 1st were left in the dark on notification of approval of their funding, leading to

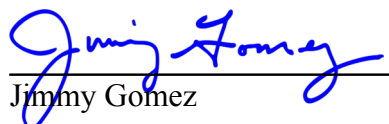
significant uncertainty and disruption as institutions began their program. These actions are completely unacceptable, and the Department of Education must fulfill its obligations and disburse this critical funding in a timely manner.

Furthermore, I am equally alarmed by the Trump Administration's decision to halt grants for Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs) in the United States. These institutions are designed to serve high concentrations of minority students who have historically been underrepresented in higher education. This federal funding helps enhance course curricula, improve school facilities, and increase enrollment. Congress funds these programs for MSIs because it recognizes the barriers that certain communities face in attending and graduating college. Rescinding \$350 million from these institutions will devastate their budgets and, ultimately, limit minority access to higher education. This not only runs contradictory to the will of Congress, but also will set back progress in communities for generations to come.

My district is a diverse community in Los Angeles that includes neighborhoods like Boyle Heights, Chinatown, Downtown Los Angeles, Highland Park, Koreatown, Little Tokyo and Lincoln Heights. An overwhelming number of students from my district have participated in TRIO programs and attend Hispanic Serving Institutions and Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institutions (AANAPISI). Dismantling funding for TRIO programs and MSIs would cause irreparable harm to my constituents. TRIO alums and graduates from MSIs are often first-generation college graduates and return to their community to empower others to pursue higher education and contribute to the common good. Refusing to properly fund these programs will be disastrous for colleges and universities and for Angelenos who dream of attending and graduating college.

As a member of Congress who represents one of the most diverse constituencies in the country, I urge the Secretary of Education and the Trump Administration to reinstate and disburse funding for TRIO programs and MSIs. These commitments are crucial to ensuring that all students are granted a fair opportunity to pursue their dreams of attending and graduating college. I urge you to take immediate action to stop the attack on TRIO programs and MSIs.

Sincerely,



Jimmy Gomez
Member of Congress