



## The Today's Students Coalition Statement on the Fiscal Year 2023 Omnibus Funding Package

WASHINGTON (December 23, 2022) – The Today's Students Coalition (TSC) – a collective of 37 higher education policy, advocacy, and membership organizations – appreciates the many proposed increases in funding for today's students in the recently passed fiscal year 2023 omnibus appropriations bill. The amount provided to critical childcare, higher education, and labor programs in the omnibus recognizes the need to continue to invest in essential supports, including:

- Raising the maximum Pell Grant amount by \$500 to a total of \$7,395 per academic year;
- Allocating \$137 million to programs directed at strengthening Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs), and historically under-resourced institutions of higher education;
- Doubling the *Basic Needs Grants* to \$10 million;
- Directing \$10 million to the *Centers of Excellence for Veterans Student Success* program;
- Providing \$45 million to the *Postsecondary Student Success Grants*;
- Dedicating roughly \$65 million to both the federal TRIO and GEAR UP programs;
- Increasing funds by \$10 million for the *Child Care Access Means Parents in School* (CCAMPIS) program; and
- Supporting the continued success of the *Pell Grants for Prison Education programs* (PEP).

We applaud Congress for supporting policies that continue to address the needs of today's students, both inside and outside of the classroom, and work to create an accessible, transparent, and achievable system of higher education.

While the TSC is encouraged by the bipartisan support of these vital programs, the coalition was disappointed to see **Emergency Student Aid Grants** omitted from the bill. Emergency student aid grants, initially provided through the COVID-19 aid packages, allowed millions of students nationwide to stay in school and meet their educational goals. However, as the funds become depleted, most institutions of higher education will no longer have the funding to provide direct financial assistance to students who are faced with unforeseen financial obstacles such as car problems or health care expenses, which can prohibit a student's ability to stay in school and complete their program of study.

Additionally, while many higher education-focused earmarks have made a strong return in the FY 2023 omnibus, the Coalition is remiss that two signature policy priorities - the **CCAMPIS** and **Garrett Lee Smith Memorial Act Campus Suicide Prevention Grant** programs - did not receive the funding necessary to support today's students. These funds ensure direct financial

assistance to students who face unexpected expenses that impede their ability to stay in school while also addressing the growing mental health crisis affecting college campuses nationwide.

The TSC commends our Congressional leaders for their commitment to today's students and looks forward to continued work with the new Congress.