

June 1, 2025

The Honorable Joe Wilson  
United States House of Representatives  
Longworth House Office Building, 1436  
Washington, DC 20515

Representative Wilson:

I am concerned about the current presidential administration's proposed budget cuts related to education. These cuts affect our young people's access to and ability to afford a college degree.

My first concern is the proposal to end federal funding for TRIO. TRIO programs, such as Upward Bound, Talent Search, and Student Support Services, provide low-income, first-generation, and individuals with disabilities with intentional opportunities and support that enable access to a college education. TRIO has been instrumental in addressing economic disparities plaguing our country and communities. If TRIO is no longer federally funded, many young people from financially disadvantaged families will be unable to attend college or pursue higher education.

A second concern is a substantial proposed financial cut to the Federal Work-Study program. For countless students with financial needs, this program offers essential part-time employment opportunities that are flexible and aligned with their academic commitments. Work-study positions significantly assist students in covering educational expenses. Cutting these funds would negatively impact students from disproportionately affected communities by increasing student debt.

Student debt is a third concern since it is a byproduct of the proposed educational budget cuts. The price of a college education is outpacing inflation, and some entry-level salaries are not high enough to adequately repay student loans. Student debt is a challenge for millions of college graduates across this country and impacts their quality of life. The burden of repayment limits their ability to purchase homes, start families, and invest in their futures. This is why an affordable college education is essential.

Please do not cut federal funding for education. We must invest in the lives of everyone. Support for programs such as TRIO and Federal Work-Study makes college education accessible and affordable for young people who may not otherwise have the opportunity.

Sincerely,

A South Carolina Concerned Citizen