

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

March 12, 2004

Dear Colleague:

We invite you to join us in signing the attached letter to Chairman Ralph Regula and Ranking Member David Obey encouraging the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education to provide a significant increase for TRIO Programs in the fiscal year 2005.

Over 1,200 colleges, universities and agencies offer TRIO Programs throughout the United States, and an estimated two million TRIO students have graduated from college. However, even with all of this success, the TRIO Programs currently only serve an estimated 7 percent of those students who are eligible for the programs.


While the TRIO Programs provide a continuum of educational outreach and support services to low-income, first-generation students from middle school through college, they cannot continue to expand these services to all eligible students without a significant increase in their annual appropriations.

Please join us in helping to expand TRIO services to more students in need by signing the attached letter calling for a significant increase in funding for the program.

Please contact Israel Ortega (Ros-Lehtinen) at 5-3931 or LaVerne Alexander (Payne) at 5-3436 to sign the letter.

Sincerely,

  
Neena Ros-Lehtinen  
Member of Congress

  
Donald M. Payne  
Member of Congress