

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

September 26, 2025

The Honorable Linda McMahon  
Secretary of Education  
United States Department of Education  
400 Maryland Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20002

RE: University of Maine at Farmington TRIO Grant Award P047A220457  
University of Southern Maine TRIO Grant Award P047V22054

Dear Secretary McMahon:

We are writing to you with regard to the two University of Maine Upward Bound TRIO grants identified above. Both programs were awarded five-year grants in 2022 and, therefore, expected funding to continue until 2027. Despite this, on September 12, both programs received notice from your Department that funding would be terminated on September 30. Although both programs have filed formal Requests for Reconsideration with your Department, they have had no choice but to notify students, families, and program personnel of the impending termination.

The Department's decision to terminate funding for these Upward Bound programs is deeply upsetting, and the negative impact on the students enrolled in these two programs cannot be overstated.

The River Valley Upward Bound Program (P047A220457) at the University of Maine at Farmington was created to serve roughly 60 students in Oxford, Maine, and, in coordination with a second program, serves 139 students across 14 high schools in some of the most rural communities in our state. The Veterans Upward Bound Program at the University of Southern Maine (P047V22054) currently serves 125 veterans, with a waitlist of additional veterans seeking support. Maine has one of the highest percentages of veterans in the country.

Upward Bound has proven its effectiveness in the lives of countless first-generation and low-income students who often face barriers to accessing a college education. We have seen the lives of many young people changed by the TRIO program. In fact, some of our own staff members went through the TRIO program and tell us that they would not have pursued higher education but for the support and opportunities that the TRIO program gave them.

Rather than terminate funding after the third year of this five-year grant, we urge you to use all available authorities to work with these programs and allow them to operate with continued funding in full compliance with the current Administration's priorities. Given the importance of these TRIO programs to the students they serve, we are hopeful you will work with them to achieve this outcome.

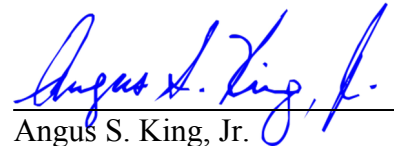
Thank you in advance for your urgent attention to this matter, and we look forward to your timely response.

Sincerely,



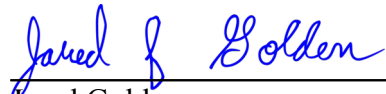
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Susan M. Collins  
United States Senator



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Angus S. King, Jr.  
United States Senator



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Jared Golden  
Member of Congress



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Chellie Pingree  
Member of Congress