

Build Back Better Appropriations Update

Sunday, October 24, 2021

Dear Mt. SAC Team-

I hope this note finds you well. Quick updates on the deliberations in Washington, DC on the Build Back Better package (BBB package) and Mt. SAC's appropriations funding request.

First, tuition-free community college is no longer part of the BBB package. Instead, the President has agreed to work with Congressional leaders on additional funding mechanisms for community colleges. The likely bipartisan and widely accepted position is expansion of the Pell Grant program. And, besides increasing the Pell Grant program, there is consensus around making certain community college educational programs eligible to be paid for by students receiving the grants. More details are needed and will be developed, but as of now, tuition-free community college is no longer part of the BBB package.

Second, regarding Mt. SAC's appropriations funding request. The Senate Appropriations Committee released the draft Labor-HHS funding bill and the bill did not include Mt. SAC's funding request. Although unfortunate we were not included in the Senate's appropriations bill, Mt. SAC was included in the House bill. As the House and Senate bills are different, negotiations will continue until an acceptable compromise is reached. During these negotiations, we are asking the Senate to agree to the House position on Mt. SAC's funding request. We may need to push to have additional support expressed for the House funding request. We will follow-up with you soon about possible additional support that will be helpful.

Meanwhile, we will continue to update you on the BBB package and on the appropriations funding request. Please let Ashley or me know if you have any questions or need anything further.

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