

May 8, 2025

Dear House and Senate Higher Education Conference Committee Members,



On behalf of the Minnesota Association for Private College Students (MAPCS) and the Council of Student Government Presidents, we thank you for the opportunity to engage with legislators regarding the Minnesota State Grant this session. We would also like to thank legislators for giving students the opportunity to express their support for the State Grant program through meetings and conversations. It is through your work that challenges are addressed in our state, including providing students with the opportunity to pursue higher education.

We appreciate the Senate's \$104.5 million investment in the State Grant program. This investment addresses half the projected deficit that would initially be cut over the next biennium. The reductions to grants without increased funding in the program would substantially impact students enrolling in or already attending college. We would also like to thank the House Higher Education Committee for investing \$34 million in State Grants. We appreciate the committee's efforts despite having no new money to spend.

We are concerned with the House proposal to remove the post-secondary emergency assistance grants for nonprofit and tribal colleges. We urge the committee to reconsider this proposal and adopt the Senate position, as this will inequitably impact students who attend these institutions. In 2024, eight of our institutions received emergency assistance funds, helping students enrolled in college on campuses from Moorhead to St. Peter and in between.

We also urge the committee to reconsider the House's proposed limitation on recognized tuition in the State Grant formula which would only impact students attending private nonprofit colleges and the University of Minnesota – Twin Cities campus.

We appreciate the House and Senate maintaining the Hunger Free Campus program and grant funding. MAPCS worked for several years to access this important program, and the continuation of the program is a priority for us.

On behalf of thousands of students that we represent, thank you for your support of the Minnesota State Grant program this year and all the work that was done to address the shortfall. We hope the committee will continue to address some of the persistent inequalities in our state and the future of Minnesota students. Through your efforts and commitment, Minnesota continues to be a better place for everyone.

Sincerely,

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CC: Commissioner Dennis Olson, Office of Higher Education
Nekey Oliver, Office of Higher Education
Nicauris Heredia Rosario, Governor Walz's Office