

August 13, 2001

On behalf of the Southern Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (SASF AA), I am writing to urge your support to make FY 2002 student financial aid appropriations a priority. In particular, we urge you to support a \$600 increase in the maximum Pell Grant award.

SASF AA is a non-profit professional association representing over 1100 post-secondary school financial aid administrators in the Southeast. Many of our members have been in the financial aid profession for over 10 years and can testify first-hand about how successful the federal financial aid programs have been in providing economically disadvantaged students access to a college education.

Federal financial aid funding offers society a wonderful return on investment. Students who, with the help of Federal financial aid, earn a college degree return many times over the amount they received in aid through increased earnings, a higher standard of living, a more educated workforce and federal taxes paid.

The Federal grant, loan and work programs all complement each other and help meet different student needs. All are worthy of your strongest support and highest possible funding. Education must remain a priority for this nation and financial aid funding is a cornerstone to maintaining that priority.

We look forward to working with you throughout the appropriations process. I hope you will call on us if we can provide you with any assistance or answer any questions you might have.

Sincerely,

Clark Aldridge
SASF AA President
Director of Financial Aid
University of Montevallo

Karen Fooks
SASF AA Legislative Relations Chair
Director of Financial Aid
University of Florida