

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

September 22, 2025

The Honorable Linda McMahon
Secretary
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20202

Dear Secretary McMahon:

As members of the New Hampshire Congressional Delegation, we write to urge the Department of Education to reverse the termination of the TRIO Talent Search and McNair grants for the University of New Hampshire (UNH) (P044A210139 and P217A220339).

As you know, the Talent Search (TS) grant funds institutions of higher education and other organizations around the country in supporting high school completion and encouraging college enrollment among students from disadvantaged backgrounds or those who may be the first in their family to attend college. TS programs around the country provide the academic, financial, career and personal counseling necessary for students to succeed beyond high school. In New Hampshire, UNH operates the only TS program for the state, serving more than 1,200 students across the state each year. In accordance with federal guidelines, the UNH TS program provides critical support for students to successfully navigate the complexity of applying to postsecondary education and access career success after high school.

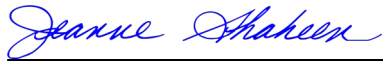
Separately, the Ronald E. McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement (“McNair”) Program funds universities to help prepare students for postgraduate studies and support their attainment of advanced degrees. The program helps many disadvantaged students who are first-generation college goers succeed in their higher education and postgraduate pursuits. In New Hampshire, the McNair Scholars program supports more than 30 graduate students, the majority of whom are low-income and first-generation college students. New Hampshire McNair scholars are focused on research that will benefit our state and nation, and the McNair program provides them with the support they need to succeed.

We are extremely concerned that, after a delay in the disbursement of TRIO funding, the Department of Education notified the UNH TS program on September 15 that ED was terminating this grant, and it notified the university on September 16 that its McNair grant would also be terminated. The UNH TS program is no longer able to operate as of September 19 due to lack of remaining funds, and the McNair program’s funding ends at the end of September.

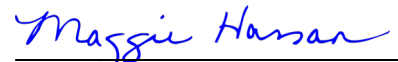
Termination of these grants would end these essential programs permanently and jeopardize the success of the students currently being served. Supporting students of disadvantaged backgrounds in finding success in higher education helps grow our workforce, in line with the stated goals of this Administration. These TS and McNair grants for UNH are essential for that purpose. Accordingly, we urge you to reverse the termination of both of these grants.

We appreciate your urgent attention to this critical matter.

Sincerely,



Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator



Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator



Chris Pappas
Member of Congress



Maggie Goodlander
Member of Congress