

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2101

May 25, 2007

The Honorable Margaret Spellings  
Secretary, U.S. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Ave, SW  
Washington, DC 20202

Dear Secretary Spellings:

I'm writing to express my concern that funding for three well-established Upward Bound programs in Massachusetts was not renewed as part of the FY07 grants recently announced by the Department. The programs at Holyoke Community College, North Shore Community College, and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology did not have their funds renewed. Two promising new applicants were also denied funds. Overall, the Commonwealth's Upward Bound community suffered a serious loss of more than \$1 million.

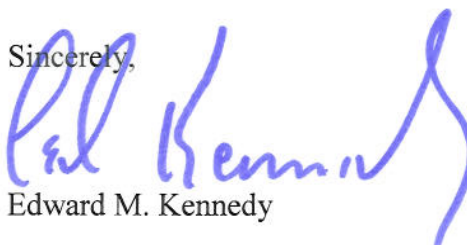
TRIO programs have an important role in many communities throughout Massachusetts, with 52 programs serving more than 20,000 low-income students. Each year, Upward Bound alone offers enrichment, mentoring and year-round support services to hundreds of students throughout the Commonwealth. In the most successful Upward Bound programs in Massachusetts, students significantly increase their SAT scores and enrollment in postsecondary education.

In many communities, Upward Bound is an invaluable resource for students who dream of escaping from the vicious cycle of poverty. Each year, for example, the Upward Bound program at MIT gives 75 low-income students from Cambridge the support they need to graduate from high school and go on to college. It has been a pillar of its community for more than 40 years, and the programs at North Shore and Holyoke Community Colleges have served their communities for decades as well.

I appreciate the difficulty of making these funding decisions, and I know that the grant process is very competitive. But, this loss of more than \$1 million will be extremely detrimental to the success of these worthwhile programs. I urge you to reconsider the denial of funds, particularly to the three prior grantees that have served Massachusetts so well.

With respect and appreciation,

Sincerely,



Edward M. Kennedy