Dear Colleague:

I write to you today because of a possible threat within Congress to eliminate funding for low-income students who deserve access to AP(R) courses and exams.

For more than 10 years, the federal AP Test Fee and Incentive Program has helped educators dramatically increase success in AP courses and exams for low-income students. This federal program provides:

\* Funds for states to cover the costs of AP exams for low-income students.

\* Opportunities for states and districts to apply for funds to increase the availability and quality of AP courses at high-poverty schools by training AP teachers and providing added academic support for students.

When the federal AP Test Fee and Incentive Program began in 1999, low-income students earned scores of 3 or higher on only 40,000 AP Exams. By 2011, with access, opportunity and costs dramatically improved through the federal program, low-income students were earning 220,000 scores of 3 or better annually, a powerful change that is significantly reducing the costs of college and improving college readiness for the nation's most disadvantaged students.

The House Appropriations Committee recently released its draft fiscal year 2012 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education funding bill and proposed eliminating funding for the program.

While the Senate Appropriations Committee, which released its FY2012 education funding bill in September, has proposed retaining funding for the federal AP program, we are concerned about the future of the program and the impact on students and schools if it is eliminated.

As the sponsors of AP, we wanted to inform you about this possible threat to funding so that you can weigh what its elimination would mean for low-income AP students at your school. We hope you will consider contacting your state representatives in Washington, D.C., to voice your support for the program. If you are interested in learning how to reach out on behalf of the low-income students in your school, please send an email to Eleanor Vogelsang (evogelsang@collegeboard.org), who represents the Government Relations division for the College Board, and she will provide you with additional information about this issue.

Sincerely,

Gaston Caperton

President

The College Board