



February 12, 2018

Dear DC Community:

We are writing with important news about the DC Tuition Assistance Grant program (DCTAG), a program that has helped 26,000 students attend and get through college. Today, President Trump released a budget proposal for 2019 that completely eliminates DCTAG. This is grave news for DC. It means that a college education for thousands of DC students is at risk. Congress can and should reject this proposal and fully fund DCTAG for 2019 and beyond. Please help us save DCTAG by signing the #SaveDCTAG petition at savedctag.dc.gov.

For President Trump and the members of Congress who support his budget, our students are simply a line item in a budget. But we know that real lives and livelihoods are at stake. Lives like Ms. Davidson who wrote in to tell us (on graduation day) that because of DCTAG, her daughter graduated from the University of Alabama at Birmingham with a bachelor's degree in Sociology. And, current UNC-Greensboro student Amaya, who shared that without DCTAG she would not have been able to attend the university where she is double-majoring in Music and Latin American Studies. Amaya credits her ability to earn straight A's in college to the financial peace of mind DCTAG has given her and to her family.

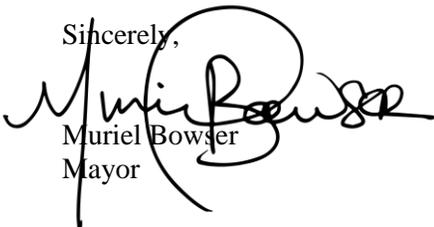
Though the President is proposing to defund DCTAG, we know that Congress makes final decisions about funding. Therefore, as a city, we are coming together to fight for the futures of all of our students. If you are a student with a current year award, fear not, as you will receive your payments as usual this year. If you are a senior who has not yet applied for DCTAG, please apply for an award for 2018 - 2019, we plan to fight this and win.

There is time to save the the program, but it will take all of us to do it. We ask that you stand in solidarity and action with us as we work to protect the college education and livelihoods of our students. If you, too, believe that our students deserve a fair shot at creating strong futures, take action right now by doing the following:

- Sign the #SaveDCTAG petition at savedctag.dc.gov
- Spread the word on your social media networks using the #SaveDCTAG hashtag

We urge Congress to reject President Trump's proposal to eliminate DCTAG. Time after time, Washingtonians have come together to spark change. This is yet another moment to show that we are DC Strong and that our DC values are of great importance to us. Over the course of nearly twenty years, DCTAG has helped more than 26,000 Washingtonians get to and through college. Let's work together to ensure that we can do the same for 26,000 more!

Sincerely,



Muriel Bowser
Mayor