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ILLINOIS STATE SENATE
DAVID KOEHLER
STATE SENATOR - 46TH DISTRICT

September 16, 2009

Honorable Pat Quinn
Governor, State of Illinois
207 State Capitol
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Governor Quinn:

I have been receiving many letters, phone calls, and emails regarding Monetary Award Program (MAP) grant funding. Nearly 3,000 students in my district are MAP grant recipients and will be adversely affected by the program's underfunding, as will local community colleges and universities.

I realize that MAP grant underfunding is a statewide problem, and only a small part of our larger budgetary challenge. However, it has become increasingly important for job-seekers to get a university education. In this time of high unemployment, I do not believe we should be cutting one of Illinois' most important programs for helping students from low-income families attend college. We are handicapping already-struggling families, and ultimately hurting the economic viability of our state.

I know that you have already spoken about the importance of restoring MAP grant funding. I hope that you will continue to work with members of the General Assembly on this critical issue. I look forward to working with you and my colleagues, examining all possible answers, and finding a solution to this problem. I believe this is an issue we should be able to solve with an honest, bipartisan dialogue—after all, college funding is important to every community in every corner of Illinois.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Koehler". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial "D".

David Koehler
State Senator, 46th District