



May 9, 2025

Senator Boyd  
Senator Collins  
Senator Hooper  
The Florida Senate  
111 W. Madison Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399

RE: Letter of Support – EASE Grant Funding

Dear Senators Boyd, Collins and Hooper,

On behalf of CareerSource Hillsborough Pinellas (CSHP), I want to sincerely thank you for your steadfast leadership and commitment to Florida's communities as the Legislature works through the state budget. Your efforts to ensure our state remains a place where families can thrive and businesses prosper do not go unnoticed.

CSHP plays a vital role in supporting workers that provide high-quality healthcare to residents across our community, from Tampa to Bradenton to New Port Richey. Our ability to meet the growing healthcare needs of this region depends on a strong, reliable workforce. For years, Keiser University students have been an essential part of that workforce pipeline, particularly in allied health professions.

I'm reaching out to share our concern regarding the proposed changes to the Effective Access to Education (EASE) Grant in the House budget. The newly added eligibility metrics would disqualify many of the students we rely on to fill these crucial healthcare roles, jeopardizing our ability to fill critical healthcare positions at a time when demand continues to rise. These students are not only pursuing meaningful healthcare careers but are also choosing institutions that best align with their personal and professional goals, made possible by Florida's longstanding commitment to school choice in higher education.

We respectfully ask for your continued support in preserving full funding for the EASE Grant without restrictive new criteria. Protecting this program is essential to sustaining both Florida's healthcare workforce pipeline and the broader principle of educational opportunity, ensuring students have access to the institutions that best serve their needs and career ambitions.

Thank you again for your leadership and unwavering support of Florida's workforce, healthcare system, and school choice. We are grateful for your advocacy and urge you to continue holding strong on this important issue for our community and state.

Sincerely,  
*Keidrian Kunkel*

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