March XX, 2005

The Honorable X

United States X

X Office Building

Washington, D.C. X

Dear X:

As a student at Skidmore College, I urge you to reject Governor Pataki’s proposal to restructure TAP grants. With holding one-half of all TAP grants until a student graduates will make it harder for them to afford college, forcing many to take out a loan to fill the gap that is left in their TAP award. This is a critical issue for me and many students here at Skidmore.

The restructuring of TAP for college students will mean that I will not be able to receive <<X>> in TAP grant next year. Without my TAP award, I will be forced either to seek high-interest private loans to continue my studies or drop out because I cannot afford to continue. Many students can’t get these private loans because they don’t have someone who is willing and able to co-sign for them. From personal experience I know that TAP often makes the difference for students like me who do not otherwise have enough funds to pay for college.

Please reject the proposal to restructure TAP grants. Also, please support restoring the funding that is necessary to keep the program healthy. At a time when access to education is increasingly important, I ask that New York State provide XXX million for TAP funding next year.

Thank you for considering my request. If you would like to discuss this issue further, please contact <<insert contact information>>.

Sincerely,