

Dear Friends of CRLS,

I know that you have heard, more times than you can count, how this time **the need is greater than ever**. Unfortunately, this time the statement is all too true. Due to federal cuts, students, especially those from low-income backgrounds, will have fewer options to finance their education while potentially losing access to essential social safety net programs, and their families will be facing greatly increased financial burdens.

We are very fortunate to have incredible CRLS seniors who have very impressive academic and career aspirations. They have big goals and remarkable achievements that will contribute to the well-being of our community. And for so many of them, these goals also include using their skills and knowledge to help others.

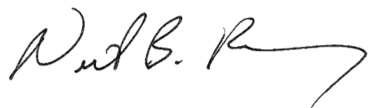
Yet today, these impressive students face very daunting hurdles to realizing these goals. First, deep cuts to health care and food assistance benefits will severely increase the struggle that low-income families face to just pay their basic needs. This will make it far more difficult for these families to help their children pay for college. The food assistance cuts will also impact the students when they are at college, as over 1 in 5 college students experience food insecurity, according to the President & CEO of The Institute for College Access & Success (TICAS).

At the same time, according to the Hildreth Institute, proposed federal budget cuts and policy shifts would significantly reduce or eliminate key student aid programs that tens of thousands of Massachusetts students rely on. "The proposed cuts ... would require millions of enrolled students to drop out or take on more debt to complete their degrees – likely denying countless prospective low- and moderate-income students the opportunity to go to college altogether." (TICAS)

This past year, because of your generosity, FOCRLS was able to award a total of \$101,200 to 50 awardees. **Given the enormity of the need, if you have given before, I ask that you double your previous contribution, and if you are moved to contribute for the first time, I ask that you give generously so that FOCRLS can provide desperately needed scholarship assistance to CRLS seniors.** To make your donation, go to [focrls.org](http://focrls.org) (automatic recurring monthly gifts are especially appreciated) or mail your check payable to *FOCRLS* to: FOCRLS, P.O. Box 391541, Cambridge MA 02139.

Your upcoming holiday celebrations will be that much more joyous, knowing that you are helping ensure that very worthy CRLS seniors can pursue their dreams of a higher education and are able to make critical contributions to our economy and to our community.

With deep gratitude,



Neil Rosenberg, FOCRLS Treasurer and Scholarship Committee Chair