

#DOUBLEPELL

The Honorable Patty Murray Chair
Senate Appropriations Committee
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Susan Collins Vice Chair
Senate Appropriations Committee
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kay Granger Chair
House Appropriations Committee
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro Ranking Member
House Appropriations Committee
Washington, DC 20515

June 29, 2023

Dear Chair Murray, Chair Granger, Vice Chair Collins, and Ranking Member DeLauro,

We write to thank you for the historic increases provided to the Pell Grant in recent years and to urge you to maintain the strong bipartisan support for the program as you work on FY 2024 funding. To that end, as you work within the discretionary spending caps imposed by the Fiscal Responsibility Act, we urge you to ensure that funding dedicated to the Pell Grant program remains within Pell Grants and is not used to fill budget gaps in other programs. If some of the Pell reserve must be spent on other programs, we hope it will remain with federal student aid to help more students from low-income households be able to afford college and receive the economic benefit a postsecondary degree provides.

Pell Grants allow more than six million low- and middle-income students — including nearly 60 percent of Black undergraduates and almost half of Latino undergraduates — to attend college each year, serving a critical boost in affordability for students who would not otherwise be able to attend college. Yet, the current maximum Pell award still covers the lowest share of costs in the program's over 50-year history. Pell Grant recipients today are more than twice as likely as

other students to have student loans, and recipients who borrow graduate with over \$4,500 more debt than their higher income peers.¹

The Pell Grant reserve should remain available for use in the Pell Grant program now and in the future. According to the Department of Education, 600,000 more students will become eligible for Pell Grants in FY 2025 with the implementation of the FAFSA Simplification Act of 2020. Maintaining the reserve now will ensure funding is available to expand Pell Grants, as Congress intended.

Protecting Pell funding against rescissions is a critical step towards ensuring that the program benefits students, as Congress intended. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

10,000 Degrees
Achieve Atlanta
ACPA-College Student Educators International
Advancing Academics
Alabama Possible
American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education
American Association of Community Colleges
American Association of State Colleges and Universities
American Association of University Professors
American Association of University Women
American Council on Education
APIA Scholars
Association of American Universities
Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities
Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges
Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities
Association of Public and Land-grant Universities
Bottom Line
Breakthrough Central Texas
Campaign for College Opportunity
Capital Area College Access Network
Council for Christian Colleges & Universities
Center for First-generation Student Success
Coalition of Higher Education Assistance Organizations

¹ Based on data analyzed by The Institute for College Access and Success (TICAS) in 2022. See this report: [To-Celebrate-Pell-Turns-50-Lets-Double-Pell Fact-sheet.pdf \(ticas.org\)](#)

Coalition of State University Aid Administrators
College AIM
College Goal Maryland, Inc.
College Now Greater Cleveland
College Possible
CollegeTracks, Inc.
Complete College America
Council on Social Work Education
Denver Scholarship Foundation
EDUCAUSE
Excelencia in Education
Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce
GRASP (Great Aspirations Scholarship Program) Inc.
Higher Learning Advocates
Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities
I Know I Can
Illinois College Access Network
Indigenous Education, Inc.
Institute for Higher Education Policy
Latino U College Access (LUCA)
LeadMN - College Students Connecting for Change
Let's Get Ready
Los Angeles United Methodist Urban Foundation
Michigan League for Public Policy
Middle States Commission on Higher Education
Missouri College and Career Attainment Network
NAACP
NACAC
National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities
National Association of State Student Grant & Aid Programs
National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators
National Education Association
New America, Higher Education Program
New England Commission of Higher Education
Northern California College Promise Coalition
Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities
Onward We Learn
Oregon Student Association
Partners for Rural Impact
Partnership for Los Angeles Schools

Partnership for the Future
Penn AHEAD
Pennsylvania Association for College Admission Counseling
Phi Beta Kappa Society
Philadelphia College Prep Roundtable
Reach Higher Montana
Southern California College Attainment Network
State Higher Education Executive Officers Association
Student Public Interest Research Groups
Student Veterans of America
The Education Trust
The Hope Center at Temple University
The Institute for College Access & Success
The Opportunity Network
The Peninsula College Fund
The Scholarship Foundation of St. Louis
The Student Senate for California Community Colleges
Third Way
TN College Access and Success Network
Toledo Tomorrow
uAspire
UNCF (United Negro College Fund, Inc.)
UnidosUS
Unite Inc
UNITE-LA
Worthington Scholarship Foundation
Yes We Must Coalition
Young Invincibles