

# #DOUBLEPELL

February 3, 2022

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker of the House  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chuck Schumer  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Minority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Leader Schumer, Speaker Pelosi, Minority Leader McConnell, and Leader McCarthy:

As you work toward a spending agreement for fiscal year 2022, the undersigned organizations urge you to invest in our nation's students by doubling the maximum Pell Grant award and protecting the long-term viability of the Pell Grant program. To meet this critical goal, we urge you to pursue all available means, including appropriations and other spending measures.

Pell Grants are the foundation of our national investment in higher education. Each year, they allow more than seven million low- and middle-income students — including nearly 60 percent of Black undergraduates and almost half of Latino undergraduates — to attend and complete college.

The share of college costs covered by the Pell Grant is at an all-time low. Nearly 50 years ago, the maximum grant was worth more than three-quarters of the cost of attending a four-year public college. After decades of state budget cuts that drove up tuition, Pell Grants now cover less than one-third of those costs. Furthermore, household incomes were flat over the same period. 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. Doubling the Pell Grant would significantly reduce or eliminate low-income students' need to borrow.

In a climate where political parties, candidates, and even neighbors have difficulty finding common ground, a recent national survey of registered voters showed strong bipartisan support for investing in the Pell Grant program, with 75 percent explicitly supporting doubling the maximum award.

A postsecondary credential or degree is an increasingly necessary gateway to economic opportunity, and a strong Pell Grant is critical to ensuring that students from all financial backgrounds can participate and grow a strong, diverse economy. Thank you for your attention to this critical matter.

Sincerely,

10,000 Degrees

1000 Women Strong

Academic Success Program Dallas

Achieve Atlanta

ACPA-College Student Educators International

Alabama Association of Independent Colleges and Universities

Alabama Possible

American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers

American Association of Community Colleges

American Association of State Colleges and Universities

American Association of University Professors

American Council on Education

American Federation of Teachers

American Indian Higher Education Consortium

American Psychological Association

APIA Scholars

APPA, "Leadership in Educational Facilities"

Asociación de Colegios y Universidades Privadas de Puerto Rico (ACUP) [Association of Private Colleges and Universities of Puerto Rico]

Association for Biblical Higher Education

Association of Advanced Rabbinical and Talmudic Schools

Association of American Universities

Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities

Association of Independent California Colleges and Universities

Association of Independent Colleges & Universities in Massachusetts

Association of Independent Colleges and Universities in Pennsylvania (AICUP)

Association of Independent Colleges and Universities of Ohio

Association of Independent Colleges and Universities of Rhode Island

Association of Independent Colleges of Art & Design

Association of Independent Kentucky Colleges and Universities

Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities

Association of Presbyterian Colleges & Universities

Association of Public and Land-grant Universities

Association of Schools Advancing Health Professions

Association of Young Americans (AYA)

Bold Thought Partners, LLC

Bottom Line

Breakthrough Central Texas

California EDGE Coalition  
California Student Aid Commission  
Capital Area College Access Network, Lansing, MI  
Capital Region Sponsor-A-Scholar  
CCCU - Council for Christian Colleges & Universities  
Center for American Progress  
Center for First-generation Student Success  
Chiefs for Change  
COHEAO  
College Advising Corps  
College Beyond  
College Bound - St. Louis  
College Horizons, Inc.  
College Now Greater Cleveland  
College Success Foundation  
CollegeBound Foundation  
CollegeTracks  
Commission on Independent Colleges and Universities  
Common App & Reach Higher  
Community Bridges, Inc.  
Connecticut Conference of Independent Colleges  
Consortium of Universities of the Washington Metropolitan Area  
Consumer Action  
Council for Christian Colleges and Universities (CCCU)  
Council for Opportunity in Education  
Council of Independent Colleges  
Council of Independent Nebraska Colleges Foundation  
Council on Social Work Education  
Denver Scholarship Foundation  
Detroit College Access Network  
Dr. Doretha Pressey Southern Scholars Initiative, Inc.  
Education Forward Arizona  
EDUCAUSE  
EduDreamer  
Excelencia in Education  
Florida College Access Network  
Generation Progress  
Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce  
Georgia Budget and Policy Institute  
Goddard Riverside, Options Center  
GRASP (Great Aspirations Scholarship Program)  
Grind To Grad  
Higher Education Loan Coalition  
Higher Heights Youth Empowerment Programs, Inc.

Higher Learning Advocates  
Higher Learning Commission  
Higher Level Educational Consulting, Inc.  
Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities  
ICUF (Independent Colleges & Universities of Florida)  
Independent Colleges of Indiana  
Independent Colleges of Washington  
Indigenous Education, Inc.  
Institute for Higher Education Policy (IHEP)  
John Burton Advocates for Youth  
Kansas Independent College Association  
Kid City Hope Place  
KIPP Public Schools  
Latino U College Access (LUCA)  
LeadMN -- College Students Connecting For Change  
Learn to Earn Dayton, Inc.  
Let's Get Ready  
Los Angeles United Methodist Urban Foundation  
Louisiana Association of Independent Colleges and Universities  
Maryland Independent College and University Association (MICUA)  
Mastery Charter Schools  
Michigan Association for College Admission Counseling  
Michigan League for Public Policy  
Middle States Commission on Higher Education  
Mid-Eastern Association of Educational Opportunity Program Personnel  
Minnesota Private College Council  
More Than Bootstraps  
Muskegon Opportunity College Access Network, Muskegon, MI  
NAACP  
National Association for College Admission Counseling  
National Association of College and University Business Officers  
National Association of Graduate-Professional Students  
National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities  
National Association of State Student Grant and Aid Programs  
National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators  
National College Attainment Network (NCAN)  
National Consumer Law Center (on behalf of our low-income clients)  
National Down Syndrome Congress  
National Education Association  
National Young Farmers Coalition  
New America Higher Education Program  
New American Colleges and Universities  
New England Association for College Admission Counseling  
New England Commission of Higher Education

New York Public Interest Research Group  
Noble Schools  
North Carolina Independent Colleges and Universities  
Northern California College Promise Coalition  
Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities  
Ohio Student Association  
On Point for College  
OneGoal  
Oregon Alliance of Independent Colleges and Universities  
Partners for Education at Berea College  
Partnership for Los Angeles Schools  
Partnership for the Future  
Path to College Tennessee  
PeerForward  
Peninsula Bridge  
Penn AHEAD  
Pennsylvania Association for College Admission Counseling  
Phi Beta Kappa Society  
Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society  
Philadelphia College Prep Roundtable  
Philanthropy Ohio  
Phoenix Pact  
Project GRAD Akron  
Puget Sound College & Career Network - Puget Sound Educational Service District  
Reach Higher Montana  
Rocky Mountain Association for College Admission Counseling  
SACSCOC  
Scholarship America  
South Carolina Independent Colleges & Universities  
Southeast Asia Resource Action Center  
Stand by Me NexGen Delaware  
State Higher Education Executive Officers Association  
Student Debt Crisis Center  
Student Public Interest Research Groups (PIRGs)  
Student Veterans of America  
Students United  
Tennessee Independent Colleges and Universities Assoc.  
The Century Foundation  
The Coalition of State University Aid Administrators  
The Education Trust  
The Independent Colleges and Universities of New Jersey  
The Institute for College Access & Success (TICAS)  
The Opportunity Network  
The Peninsula College Fund

Third Way  
TN College Access and Success Network  
Toledo Tomorrow  
uAspire  
UNCF (United Negro College Fund)  
UnidosUS  
UNITE-LA  
University of California Graduate & Professional Council  
WASC Senior College and University Commission  
West Virginia Independent Colleges & Universities  
Western Association for College Admission Counseling  
Wisconsin Association of Independent Colleges and Universities  
Women Employed  
Woodward Hines Education Foundation  
Work Colleges Consortium  
Worthington Scholarship Foundation  
Yes We Must Coalition  
Young Invincibles

cc: The Honorable Patty Murray  
The Honorable Richard Burr  
The Honorable Patrick Leahy  
The Honorable Richard Shelby  
The Honorable Roy Blunt  
The Honorable Bobby Scott  
The Honorable Virginia Foxx  
The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
The Honorable Kay Granger  
The Honorable Tom Cole