

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

May 23, 2025

The Honorable Robert Aderholt  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services,  
Education  
Committee on Appropriations  
2358-B Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services,  
Education  
Committee on Appropriations  
1036 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Aderholt and Ranking Member DeLauro:

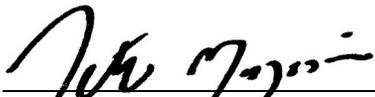
As you begin work on this year's Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies appropriations bill, we ask that you provide robust funding for the Federal Pell Grant Program in Fiscal Year 2026 to double the current maximum individual award to \$14,790. We also ask that appropriators secure the long-term affordability impact of the Pell Grant program for years to come by indexing the maximum award amount to inflation and ensuring that funding for the program is fully mandatory, rather than discretionary. These policy changes will ensure that the financial support the Pell Grant program provides to students as they pursue higher education will be insulated from market changes or budget shortfalls.

While the Committee has made significant strides to increase the maximum grant, the 2024 - 2025 award year still falls short of what is needed to make college affordable to the lowest-income students. Congress must increase the annual Pell Grant to \$14,790. Federal investments to boost Pell, combined with increased state support and the commitment of institutions to hold down costs, are working. At public four-year institutions, for example, adjusted for inflation, tuition is down from ten years ago, as is student borrowing. However, increased expenses like textbooks, housing, food, and transportation have drastically diminished Pell's purchasing power. This places a greater strain on the students and families that the program was designed to help. Increasing the maximum Pell Grant will significantly improve the award's purchasing power, thus ensuring it will truly benefit the students and families that need it most.

For 53 years, Pell Grants have provided much-needed financial assistance to low-income families, unlocking higher education opportunities for millions of students. Because these grants are awarded solely based upon a student's financial need and do not have to be repaid, they are often the main vehicle available to low- and moderate-income students to pay for a college education. Strengthening the program will not only make college more affordable, but it will also improve outcomes by providing grant recipients more opportunities to focus on school, helping them cover their basic needs, and eliminating barriers to completion. Helping low- and moderate-income students obtain a college degree will strengthen our communities, workforces, and nation. This investment will reinforce our national commitment to promoting the opportunity to obtain a college education regardless of family income.

Thank you again for your attention to this critical issue. We look forward to working with you on ways to expand access to a quality higher education.

Sincerely,



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Seth Magaziner  
Member of Congress



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Maxine Waters  
Member of Congress



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David Scott  
Member of Congress



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Lucy McBath  
Member of Congress



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Donald S. Beyer Jr.  
Member of Congress



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Jan Schakowsky  
Member of Congress



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John Garamendi  
Member of Congress



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Jonathan L. Jackson  
Member of Congress



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Marilyn Strickland  
Member of Congress



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Brendan F. Boyle  
Member of Congress



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Richard E. Neal  
Member of Congress



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Frederica S. Wilson  
Member of Congress



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Sharice L. Davids  
Member of Congress



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Nydia M. Velázquez  
Member of Congress



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Seth Moulton  
Member of Congress



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Rashida Tlaib  
Member of Congress



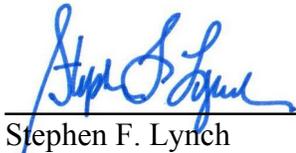
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Jimmy Panetta  
Member of Congress



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Doris Matsui  
Member of Congress



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Stephen F. Lynch  
Member of Congress



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Bradley Scott Schneider  
Member of Congress



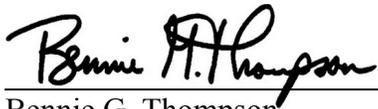
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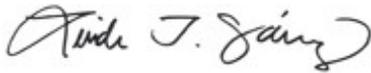
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Chellie Pingree  
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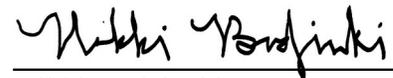
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Kevin Mullin  
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Diana DeGette  
Member of Congress



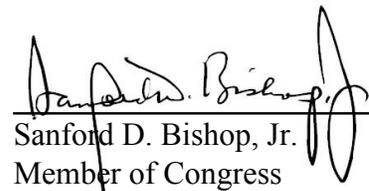
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Jamie Raskin  
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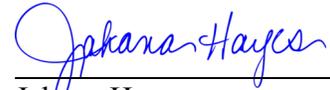


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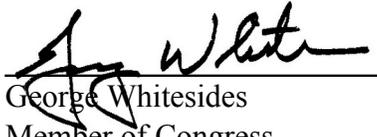
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Mike Thompson  
Member of Congress



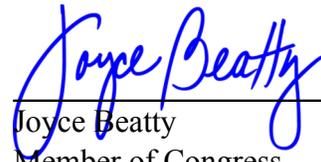
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Frank Pallone, Jr.  
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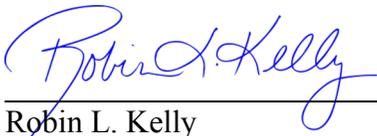
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George Whitesides  
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Joyce Beatty  
Member of Congress



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Robin L. Kelly  
Member of Congress



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Dan Goldman  
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Ayanna Pressley  
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Zoe Lofgren  
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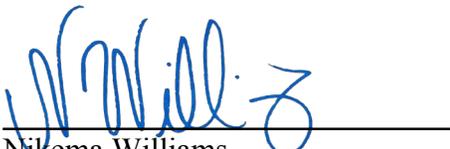
Salud Carbajal  
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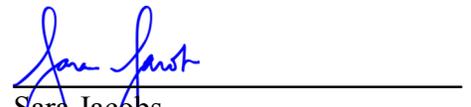
  
Dave Min  
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Jason Crow  
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Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.  
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Robert J. Menendez  
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Nikema Williams  
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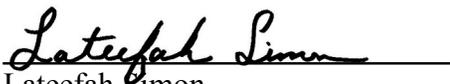
  
Sara Jacobs  
Member of Congress

  
Jesús G. "Chuy" García  
Member of Congress

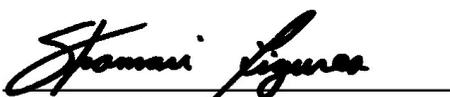
  
Yvette D. Clarke  
Member of Congress

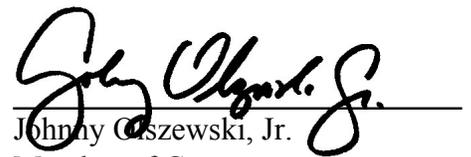
  
Ilhan Omar  
Member of Congress

  
Jiji Tokuda  
Member of Congress

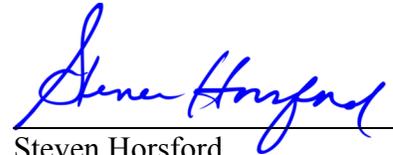
  
Lateefah Simon  
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Shomari Figures, Jr.  
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Steven Horsford  
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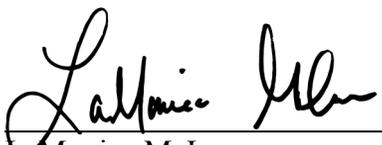
  
Chris Pappas  
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Derek T. Tran  
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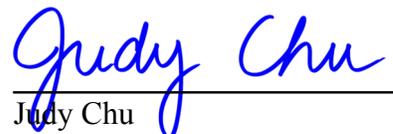
  
James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress

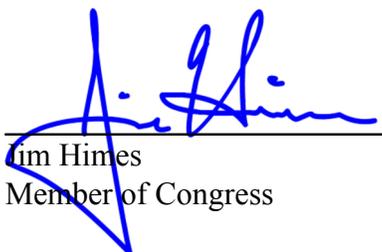
  
MARK TAKANO  
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LaMonica McIver  
Member of Congress

  
Summer L. Lee  
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Emily Randall  
Member of Congress

  
Judy Chu  
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Jim Himes  
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Sydney Kamlager-Dove  
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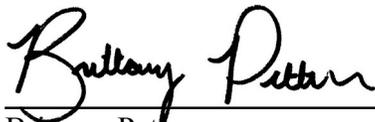
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Laura Friedman  
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Brittany Pettersen  
Member of Congress



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Mark DeSaulnier  
Member of Congress



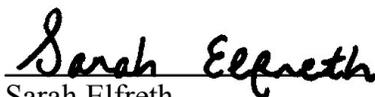
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Member of Congress



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Sarah Elfreth  
Member of Congress



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Julie Johnson  
Member of Congress



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George Latimer  
Member of Congress



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Emilia Strong Sykes  
Member of Congress



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Kim Schrier, M.D.  
Member of Congress



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Jared Huffman  
Member of Congress



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Janelle S. Bynum  
Member of Congress



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Nanette Diaz Barragán  
Member of Congress



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Maxine Dexter  
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Troy A. Carter, Sr.  
Member of Congress



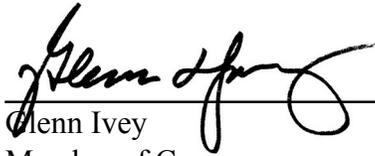
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Maxwell Alejandro Frost  
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Paul D. Tonko  
Member of Congress



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Glenn Ivey  
Member of Congress



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Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress



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Lloyd Doggett  
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