

#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