

#DOUBLEPELL

March 22, 2023

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

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

As Congress works toward a spending agreement for fiscal year 2024, the undersigned organizations write to urge Congress to make bold new investments in the Pell Grant program, with the goal of increasing the maximum Pell award to \$13,000. Over the past three years, Congress has made tremendous progress toward this goal, increasing the Pell Grant maximum award by more than \$1,000. To make higher education more affordable and accessible to those most in need of support, we must build upon this progress with additional investments.

Pell Grants 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 each year. Yet, the current maximum Pell award still covers the lowest share of costs in the program's 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.

Raising the maximum Pell award to \$13,000 is an effective, targeted way to make college more affordable and lower student debt burdens for millions of students. 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 important matter, and we look forward to working with you to protect and invest in the Pell Grant program.

Sincerely,

10,000 Degrees
AACTE (American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education)
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 Association of University Women
American Council on Education
American Federation of Teachers
American Indian Higher Education Consortium (AIHEC)
Americans for Financial Reform
APIA Scholars
Arizona Students' Association
Associated Students of the University of California, Berkeley
Associated Students of UC Irvine
Association of American Universities (AAU)
Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities
Association of Community College Trustees
Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities
Association of Public and Land-grant Universities
Association of Research Libraries (ARL)
Bottom Line
Breakthrough Central Texas
California Student Aid Commission
Campaign for College Opportunity
Capital Area College Access Network (Lansing, MI)
CCCU – Council for Christian Colleges & Universities
Center for First-generation Student Success
Coalition of Higher Education Assistance Organizations
Coalition of State University Aid Administrators
College & Community Fellowship
College Beyond
Complete College America
Consumer Action
Council for Opportunity in Education (COE)
Council of Independent Colleges
Council on Social Work Education
Degrees of Change
Denver Scholarship Foundation
Dr. Doretha Pressey Southern Scholars Initiative, Inc.
EDUCAUSE
Excelencia in Education
Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce
Higher Education Loan Coalition
Higher Education Program, New America

Higher Learning Advocates
Hildreth Institute
iMentor Bay Area
Indigenous Education, Inc.
Institute for Higher Education Policy (IHEP)
Jain Family Institute
John Burton Advocate for Youth
KIPP Public Schools
Latino U College Access (LUCA)
LeadMN – College Students Connecting for Change
Michigan League for Public Policy
Middle States Commission on Higher Education
More Than Bootstraps
Muskegon Opportunity & Muskegon Area Promise
NAACP
National Association for College Admission Counseling
National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities
National Association of State Student Grant & Aid Programs
National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators
National College Attainment Network
National Consumer Law Center (on behalf of its low-income clients)
National Education Association
National Scholarship Providers Association
NextGen California
Northern California College Promise Coalition
Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities
Ohio Student Association
OneGoal
Onward We Learn
Oregon Student Association
Partnership for Los Angeles Schools
Partnership for the Future
Penn AHEAD
Pennsylvania Association for College Admission Counseling
Phi Beta Kappa Society
Public Citizen
Reach Higher
Rutgers University Student Assembly
Southern California College Attainment Network
State Higher Education Executive Officers Association
Student Debt Crisis Center
Student Public Interest Research Groups (PIRGs)
Student Senate for California Community Colleges
Student Veterans of America
Students Rising Above
Students United
The Education Trust
The Institute for College Access & Success (TICAS)

The National Indian Education Association
The Opportunity Network
The Peninsula College Fund
The Pittsburgh Promise
Third Way
uAspire
UNCF
UnidosUS
UNITE-LA
Worthington Scholarship Foundation
Yes We Must Coalition
Young Invincibles

cc: The Honorable Tammy Baldwin
The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
The Honorable Robert Aderholt