



February 13, 2024

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Robert Hakeem Jeffries
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives

Dear Speaker Johnson and Minority Leader Jeffries,

On behalf of the nation's community colleges, we urge you to bring the Bipartisan Workforce Pell Act (BWPA, H.R. 6585) to the floor for action as soon as possible. This legislation would provide needed financial support for low-income individuals who wish to advance their careers and is a top priority for our institutions. The bill would both grow the economy and enhance economic mobility for students. Without Workforce Pell, high-quality, skills-based programs will remain inaccessible for thousands of Americans looking for skills education that will enable them to qualify for the family-sustaining wage jobs that are currently unfilled.

A substantial number of Members from both parties agree that enactment of Workforce Pell is long overdue. We applaud the work of the House Committee on Education and the Workforce in fashioning a bipartisan measure that was overwhelmingly approved. While we encourage modification of the bill's offset, passing the BWPA as soon as possible is essential to ensuring that workforce Pell Grants are established this Congress.

Again, we urge floor action on the Bipartisan Workforce Pell Act. If you have any questions on this critical measure, please contact our government relations team members David Baime (dbaime@aacc.nche.edu) or Carrie Warick-Smith at (cwsmith@acct.org).

Sincerely,

Walter G. Bumphus, Ph.D.
AACC President and CEO

Jee Hang Lee
ACCT President and CEO

cc: Members of the House Committee on Education and the Workforce
Sponsors and Cosponsors of the Bipartisan Workforce Pell Act