

# Join Rep. Kean on FY27 GOP College Affordability Letter

Please join Rep. Kean on this year's Republican College Affordability Letter for FY27. This letter supports robust funding for Pell Grants, Work-Study programs, and Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants (SEOG).

Click [here](#) to show your boss the impact of these programs in your district and state.

Use the [Quill](#) link to sign your boss on.

## **DEADLINE: Tuesday, March 24th; COB**

**Last year's FY26 Republican [letter](#) signers:** Reps. Tom Kean, Jr. (R-NJ), Young Kim (R-CA), Kevin Kiley (I-CA), Buddy Carter (R-GA), James Moylan (R-GU), Randy Feenstra (R-IA), Zachary Nunn (R-IA), Darin LaHood (R-IL), Jack Bergman (R-MI), National Republican Campaign Committee Chairman Richard Hudson (R-NC), Don Bacon (R-NE), Christopher Smith (R-NJ), Mike Lawler (R-NY), Nicole Malliotakis (R-NY), Cliff Bentz (R-OR), Glenn Thompson (R-PA), Mike Kelly (R-PA), Lloyd Smucker (R-PA), Robert Bresnahan (R-PA), Dan Meuser (R-PA), Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA), Robert Bresnahan (R-PA), Kimberlyn King-Hinds (R-CNMI), Dusty Johnson (R-SD), Nathaniel Moran (R-TX), Michael Baumgartner (R-WA), Carol Miller (R-WV).

**FY25 Republican [letter](#) signers:** Reps. Tom Kean Jr. (R-NJ), Nick LaLota (R-NY), Lori Chavez-DeRemer (R-OR), Aumua Radewagen (AS-01), Kevin Kiley (CA-03), Young Kim (CA-40), James Moylan (GU-01), Mariannette Miller-Meecks (IA-01), Zach Nunn (IA-03), Darin LaHood (IL-16), Erin Houchin (IN-09), Jack Bergman (MI-01), Richard Hudson (NC-09), Don Bacon (NE-02), Nicole Malliotakis (NY-11), Mike Lawler (NY-17), Cliff Bentz (OR-02), Brian Fitzpatrick (PA-01), Dan Meuser (PA-09), Lloyd Smucker (PA-11), Glenn Thompson (PA-15), Mike Kelly (PA-16), Dusty Johnson (SD-01), Nathaniel Moran (TX-01), Derrick Van Orden (WI-03), Carol Miller (WV-01).

By 2031, more than 7 out of 10 jobs will require postsecondary education or training. Typical earnings for bachelor's degree holders are 84 percent higher than those whose highest degree is a high school diploma, and college graduates on average make \$1.2 million more over their lifetime. College graduates are half as likely to be unemployed as their peers who only have a high school degree. Investing in college access and completion makes good economic sense for American taxpayers and our economic growth.

In his first term, President Trump increased the individual Pell Grant maximum by \$680, or 11.7%, and enacted increases to Federal Work-Study and SEOG totaling 20% each. On April 3, 2025, the Trump Administration [announced](#) they are fully allocating FWS and SEOG funding at FY24 levels for FY25.

In addition, President Trump signed into law the bipartisan FAFSA Simplification Act of 2020. The Biden Administration bungled the rollout, causing major FAFSA delays and confusion. The second Trump Administration has fixed the mess, with the earliest FAFSA in history in Fall 2025. The form now takes only about 15 minutes to complete, and as a result, FAFSA completion and Pell Grant eligibility and awards have grown, as the bipartisan law intended. Supporting robust funding for Pell Grants, Work-Study, and SEOG meets Congress's commitment to President Trump's better FAFSA law.

If you have any questions, please reach out to Tara Snowden in Rep. Kean's office at [Tara.Snowden@mail.house.gov](mailto:Tara.Snowden@mail.house.gov).

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 26, 2026

The Honorable Roger Aderholt, Chair  
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS, and Education  
Committee on Appropriations  
2358-B Rayburn House Office Building, Washington,  
DC, 20515

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

Dear Chairman Aderhold and Ranking Member DeLauro:

As you begin drafting the Fiscal Year 2027 appropriations bill, we write to express our continued support for prioritizing robust funding for **Federal Pell Grants** and the Campus-Based student financial aid programs: **Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants (SEOG)** and **Federal Work-Study (FWS)**. Investing in college access and completion makes good economic sense for American taxpayers and our economic growth.

By 2031, more than 7 out of 10 jobs will require postsecondary education or training.<sup>1</sup> Typical earnings for bachelor's degree holders are 84 percent higher than those whose highest degree is a high school diploma, and college graduates on average make \$1.2 million more over their lifetime.<sup>2</sup> College graduates are half as likely to be unemployed as their peers who only have a high school degree.<sup>3</sup>

Pell Grants, SEOG, and FWS work together to ensure low-income and middle-income students can access and complete college, without overreliance on student loan debt. Over 50% of all postsecondary students are the first generation in their families to enter college (first-gen) and utilize these programs.<sup>4</sup>

**Federal Pell Grants** are targeted to students with the most financial need. Pell Grants are the most successful means-tested federal program, as 78% of Pell Grant recipient families earn \$40,000 or less annually, and nearly half had income less than \$20,000.<sup>5</sup> For many, Pell Grants make the difference between being able to afford college or not. More than six million low- and middle-income students receive a Pell Grant. A study by the National Bureau of Economic Research found that Pell Grant recipients' higher wages and taxes after graduation caused the government to recoup the cost in just ten years.<sup>6</sup>

**SEOG** provides up to \$4,000 in grants to low- and middle-income students and funds programs that help at-risk students get into and stay in college. Providing these students with grant aid, rather than only providing the option of student loans, helps keep them in school and focused on reaching their full potential. Pell Grants and other need-based aid increase enrollment, persistence, and completion.<sup>7</sup> SEOG provides important flexibility to institutions, allowing financial aid officers to target funds to support students who have experienced unexpected financial changes. SEOG is a critical tool to help students access college and persist on their path to a degree. SEOG served more than 1.6 million students in FY23.<sup>8</sup> We request that Congress prioritize robust funding for SEOG.

<sup>1</sup> <https://cew.georgetown.edu/cew-reports/projections2031/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://libertystreeteconomics.newyorkfed.org/2019/06/despite-rising-costs-college-is-still-a-good-investment/> ; <https://www.wsj.com/articles/BL-REB-36351>

<sup>3</sup> <https://fred.stlouisfed.org/graph/fredgraph.png?g=Qlc3>

<sup>4</sup> <https://firstgen.naspa.org/journal-and-research/national-data-fact-sheets-on-first-generation-college-students/7A515490-E6AA-11E9-BAEC0242AC100002>

<sup>5</sup> [https://www.nasfaa.org/issue\\_brief\\_double\\_pell](https://www.nasfaa.org/issue_brief_double_pell)

<sup>6</sup> [https://www.nber.org/system/files/working\\_papers/w23860/w23860.pdf](https://www.nber.org/system/files/working_papers/w23860/w23860.pdf)

<sup>7</sup> <https://cepa.stanford.edu/sites/default/files/wp18-04-v201803.pdf>

<sup>8</sup> <https://www2.ed.gov/about/overview/budget/budget24/summary/24summary.pdf>

**Federal Work-Study** provides a wide variety of job opportunities that are mainly on campus for students to work to cover part of their tuition; however, students can also have an opportunity to work off-campus as well in jobs that are of the public interest or as part of their degree. Having a work-study job on campus is a proven method of keeping low-income students engaged in their campus community while completing their degree on time, a fundamental goal of federal student aid. Students in work-study jobs have higher rates of persistence, degree completion, and employment after college than their peers.<sup>9</sup> While 660,000 students earn Federal Work-Study,<sup>10</sup> Congress provides enough funding for about 10% of first-time, full-time undergraduates to be able to participate. We request that Congress prioritize robust funding for FWS.

Thank you for considering this important federal funding request and for your continued leadership in supporting federal student aid programs. These programs help millions of students to access and afford a higher education that strengthens our local economy and global competitiveness.

Sincerely,

[[SIGNATURES]]

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<sup>9</sup> <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0272775715000825?via%3Dihub>

<sup>10</sup> <https://www2.ed.gov/about/overview/budget/budget24/summary/24summary.pdf>