

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 27, 2026

The Honorable Robert Aderholt
Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services,
Education
Committee on Appropriations
H-307, The Capitol
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:

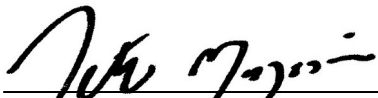
As you begin work on this year's Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies appropriations bill, we ask that you provide robust funding for the Federal Pell Grant Program in Fiscal Year 2027 to double the current maximum individual award to \$14,790. We also ask that appropriators 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 2025 - 2026 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.

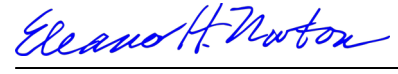
For 54 years, Pell Grants have provided much-needed financial assistance to low-income families, unlocking higher education opportunities for millions of students. Because these grants are awarded solely based upon a student's financial need and do not have to be repaid, they are often the main vehicle 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,




Seth Magaziner
Member of Congress




Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



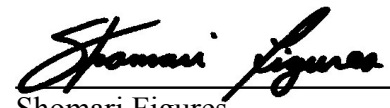
Pramila Jayapal
Member of Congress




Marilyn Strickland
Member of Congress



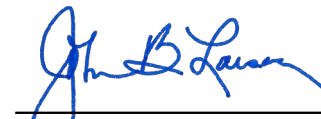
Dina Titus
Member of Congress




Shomari Figures
Member of Congress




Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress



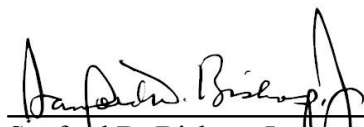
John B. Larson
Member of Congress



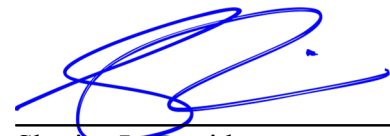
William R. Keating
Member of Congress



John Garamendi
Member of Congress




Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.
Member of Congress



Sharice L. Davids
Member of Congress




Joyce Beatty
Member of Congress



Lateefah Simon
Member of Congress



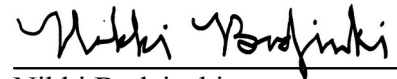
Richard E. Neal
Member of Congress



Kim Schrier, M.D.
Member of Congress



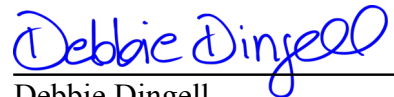
Frank Pallone, Jr.
Member of Congress



Nikki Budzinski
Member of Congress



Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress



Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress



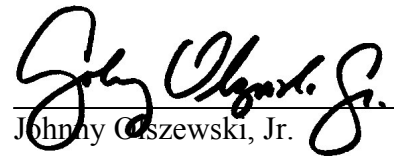
Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.
Member of Congress



LaMonica McIver
Member of Congress



Derek T. Tran
Member of Congress



Johnny Ciszewski, Jr.
Member of Congress

Terri A. Sewell
Member of Congress



Suzan K. DelBene
Member of Congress



Maxine Waters
Member of Congress



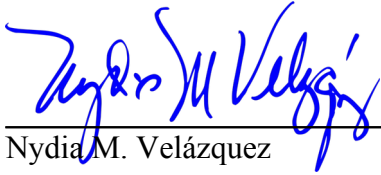
Brendan F. Boyle
Member of Congress



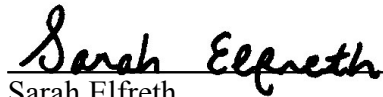
Adelita S. Grijalva
Member of Congress



J. Luis Correa
Member of Congress



Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress



Sarah Elfreth
Member of Congress



Diana DeGette
Member of Congress



Bill Foster
Member of Congress



Frederica S. Wilson
Member of Congress



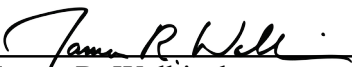
Angie Craig
Member of Congress



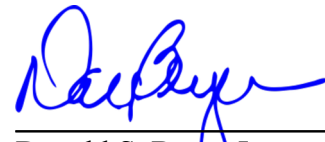
Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress



Greg Casar
Member of Congress



James R. Walkinshaw
Member of Congress



Donald S. Beyer Jr.
Member of Congress



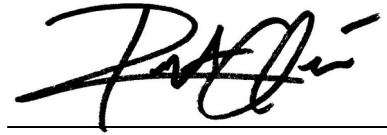
Rick Larsen
Member of Congress



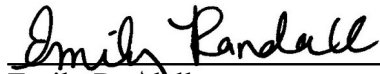
Gwen S. Moore
Member of Congress



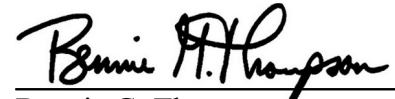
Delia C. Ramirez
Member of Congress



Robert Garcia
Member of Congress



Emily Randall
Member of Congress




Bennie G. Thompson
Member of Congress



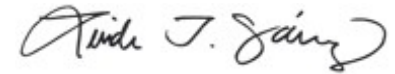
Eric Swalwell
Member of Congress



Doris Matsui
Member of Congress



Gilbert Ray Cisneros, Jr.
Member of Congress



Linda T. Sánchez
Member of Congress



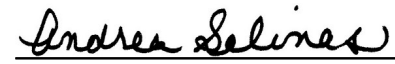
Kevin Mullin
Member of Congress



Val Hoyle
Member of Congress



Lucy McBath
Member of Congress



Andrea Salinas
Member of Congress



Maxwell Alejandro Frost
Member of Congress



Adam Smith
Member of Congress



Laura Friedman
Member of Congress



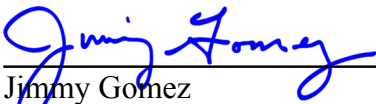
Stacey E. Plaskett
Member of Congress



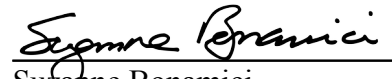
SETH MOULTON
Member of Congress



Lloyd Doggett
Member of Congress



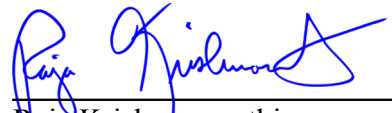
Jimmy Gomez
Member of Congress



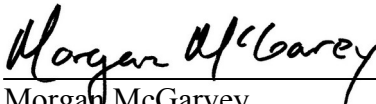
Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress



Jason Crow
Member of Congress



Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress



Morgan McGarvey
Member of Congress



Josh Gottheimer
Member of Congress



Rashida Tlaib
Member of Congress



David Scott
Member of Congress



Jimmy Panetta
Member of Congress



Dan Goldman
Member of Congress



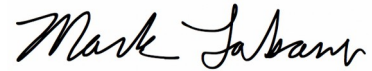
Vicente Gonzalez
Member of Congress



Summer L. Lee
Member of Congress



Lizzie Fletcher
Member of Congress



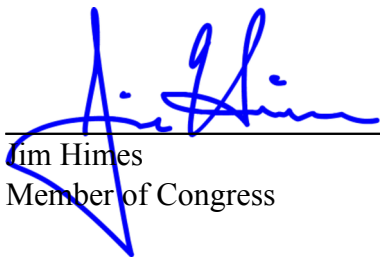
Mark Takano
Member of Congress



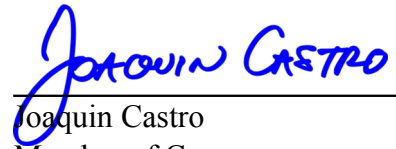
Ayanna Pressley
Member of Congress



Troy A. Carter, Sr.
Member of Congress



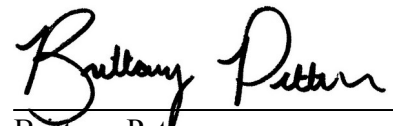
Tim Himes
Member of Congress



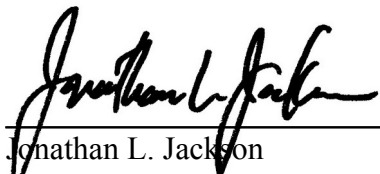
Joaquin Castro
Member of Congress



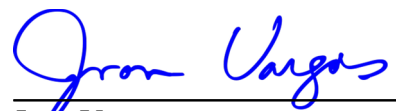
Steve Cohen
Member of Congress



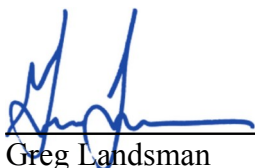
Brittany Petterson
Member of Congress



Jonathan L. Jackson
Member of Congress



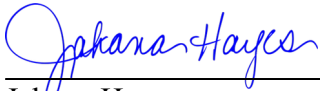
Juan Vargas
Member of Congress



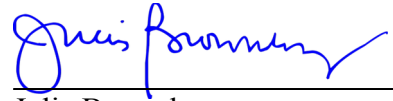
Greg Landsman
Member of Congress



Bradley Scott Schneider
Member of Congress




Jahana Hayes
Member of Congress



Julia Brownley
Member of Congress



Scott H. Peters
Member of Congress



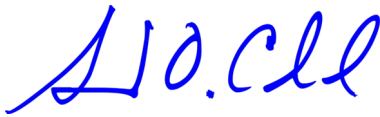
Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress



George Whitesides
Member of Congress



Raul Ruiz, M.D.
Member of Congress



Salud Carbajal
Member of Congress



James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



George Latimer
Member of Congress



Sydney Kamlager-Dove
Member of Congress



Ted W. Lieu
Member of Congress




Jake Auchincloss
Member of Congress



Julie Johnson
Member of Congress



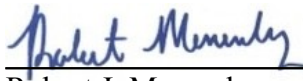
Dwight Evans
Member of Congress




Timothy M. Kennedy
Member of Congress



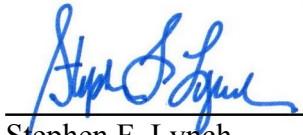
Gabe Amo
Member of Congress



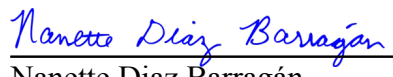
Robert J. Menendez
Member of Congress



Jared Huffman
Member of Congress



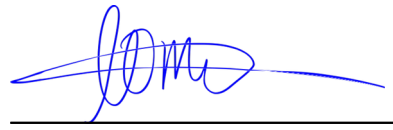
Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress



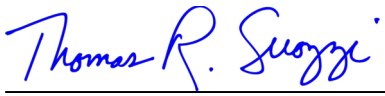
Nanette Diaz Barragán
Member of Congress



Joe Courtney
Member of Congress



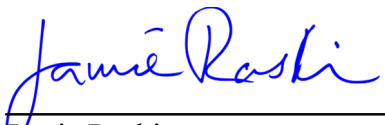
Ilhan Omar
Member of Congress



Thomas R. Suozzi
Member of Congress



Dave Min
Member of Congress



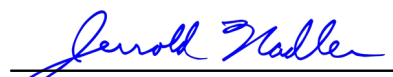
Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress



Robin L. Kelly
Member of Congress



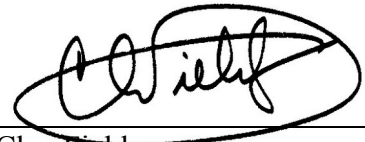
Judy Chu
Member of Congress



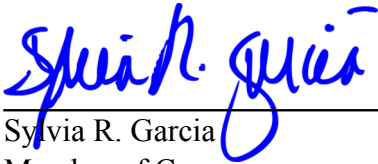
Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress



Jim Costa
Member of Congress



Cleo Fields
Member of Congress



Sylvia R. Garcia
Member of Congress



Mike Thompson
Member of Congress



Chris Pappas
Member of Congress




Ami Bera
Member of Congress



Donald Norcross
Member of Congress

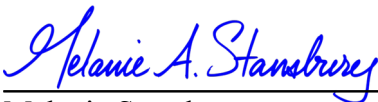


Jesús G. "Chuy" García
Member of Congress

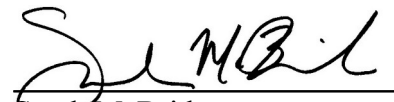


Wesley Bell
Member of Congress

Janelle S. Bynum
Member of Congress



Melanie Stansbury
Member of Congress



Sarah McBride
Member of Congress



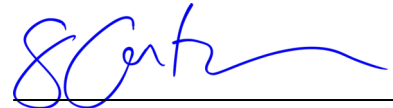
Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress



Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress



Ritchie Torres
Member of Congress



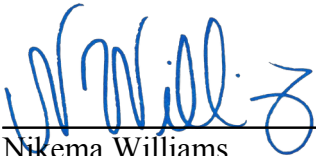
Sean Casten
Member of Congress



Maxine Dexter
Member of Congress



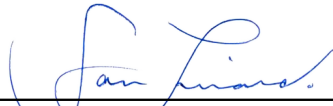
Lori Trahan
Member of Congress



Nikema Williams
Member of Congress



Shri Thanedar
Member of Congress



Sam T. Liccardo
Member of Congress




Emilia Strong Sykes
Member of Congress



Andre Carson
Member of Congress



Paul D. Tonko
Member of Congress



Luz M. Rivas
Member of Congress



Brad Sherman
Member of Congress



Jim Tokuda
Member of Congress



Joe Neguse
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Hank Johnson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "H".

Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress