

# HELP CONGRESS KEEP ITS PROMISE TO OUR NEEDIEST COLLEGE STUDENTS

## Support Funding for Pell Grants

**NEW DEADLINE NOON, THURSDAY, MAY 19, 2011**

*Current Cosigners (68): Baldwin, Berkley, Berman, T. Bishop, Boswell, Blumenauer, Brady, Braley, C. Brown, Capps, Capuano, Carson, H. Clarke, Y. Clarke, Cohen, Conyers, Costa, Courtney, Critz, DeFazio, Deutch, Doggett, Edwards, Ellison, Engel, Fattah, Filner, Fudge, Grijalva, Guterrez, Hanabusa, Hastings, Hinchey, Hirono, H. Johnson, Kind, Kucinich, Langevin, Larsen, Levin, Lipinski, Lofgren, Lujan, McGovern, McIntyre, Matsui, G. Moore, Nadler, Holmes Norton, Pascrell, Quigley, Rahall, Reyes, Ryan, Sablan, Linda Sanchez, Loretta Sanchez, Terri Sewell, Sires, Stark, Towns, Van Hollen, Waters, Waxman, Welch, Wu, Yarmuth*

Dear Colleague,

The Pell Grant program is the nation's vital financial aid program, providing scholarship aid to more than 9 million low and moderate-income students annually. I write to ask you to join me in sending the attached letter to the Appropriations Committee urging it to maintain the Pell grant maximum award of \$5,550 for eligible students in FY12. Anything less than the \$5,550 Pell Grant maximum award would make it harder for millions of students to attend and graduate from college.

Pell Grants are essential to drive our economic growth and keep America competitive in the world. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the unemployment rate for those with a high school diploma or less was 12 percent compared to those with a bachelor's degree at 4.5 percent. Eighty percent of the fastest growing jobs in the country demand at least some postsecondary education or training. Our workforce needs 22 million more degrees by 2018, but we will fall short by three million degrees if we cannot increase graduation rates.

**The deadline to sign on is May 19, 2011.** Please contact John Dickerman ([john.dickerman@mail.house.gov](mailto:john.dickerman@mail.house.gov)) in my office if you would like to add your name or for more information.

Sincerely,

Judy Chu

Member of Congress

May 20, 2011

The Honorable Denny Rehberg  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education  
House Appropriations Committee  
Washington, DC 20015

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education  
House Appropriations Committee  
Washington, DC 20015

Dear Chairman Rehberg and Ranking Member DeLauro:

We write to you to support the Pell Grant maximum award of \$5,550, as proposed in the President's budget, for students who want to pursue their higher education dreams, but have limited means to attend and graduate from college.

Pell Grants are the cornerstone of our nation's student aid program, currently enabling more than 9 million students to get the higher education and job training they and our nation need. In these tough economic times, Americans need a postsecondary degree in order to get a good job. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the unemployment rate for those with a high school diploma or less was 12 percent compare to those with a bachelor's degree at 4.5 percent. Moreover, employees with a bachelor's degree earn \$20,748 more than employees with high school diplomas.

If America wants to remain competitive in the world, we need more students graduating with a college degree. Eighty percent of the fastest growing jobs in the country demand training above a high school level. Our workforce needs 22 million more degrees by 2018, but we will fall short by three million degrees if we cannot increase post-secondary graduation rates. At the same time, states have cut funding to higher education, pushing even more of the cost on to students and their families.

Pell Grants are essential to America's future. We urge you to maintain the \$5,550 maximum Pell Grant, as requested by the President for FY2012.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,