



September 9, 2021

The Honorable Bobby Scott
Chairman
Committee on Education and Labor
U.S. House of Representatives
2176 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Virginia Foxx
Ranking Member
Committee on Education and Labor
U.S. House of Representatives
2101 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Scott and Ranking Member Foxx,

As your committee prepares to mark-up legislation as part of the FY 2022 budget resolution's reconciliation instructions, we wish to express our appreciation for the substantial investment this legislation makes in students, educators, and institutions.

Higher education remains the surest path to economic advancement, and the health of our country and our economy depend on giving every student a chance to follow that path. The legislation being marked up by the committee takes important steps to address this. Several programs in the legislation take clear aim at existing inequities in higher education, targeting funds to make college more affordable for low- and middle-income students and expand support for institutions that have historically been under-resourced, such as Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Tribal Colleges and Universities and other minority serving institutions. Taken as a whole, this legislation would help students struggling to afford a postsecondary education and the institutions that serve them.

That said, we had hoped that the committee would use this occasion to act dramatically to double the maximum Pell Grant award. This has been the foremost priority of the higher education community, a goal shared by hundreds of organizations, thousands of institutions, and millions of students and their families. We appreciate the committee's recognition of the signature importance of the Pell Grant program in this legislation by providing an increase of \$500 to the maximum award. However, this increase falls far short of the president's request for an increase of \$1,475, much less the significant expansion we know is needed. As the reconciliation process advances, we will work with Congress to increase the Pell Grant maximum award in any final measure.

Given the legislation's sweeping nature, not all of the undersigned organizations share identical views on all its provisions. We look forward to working with you to secure a greater investment in Pell as this legislation advances through the process.

Sincerely,



Ted Mitchell
President

On behalf of:

Achieving the Dream
ACPA-College Student Educators International
ACT
American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education
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 Council on Education
American Dental Education Association
APPA, "Leadership in Educational Facilities"
Association of American Colleges and Universities
Association of American Universities
Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges
Association of Public and Land-grant Universities
Association of Research Libraries
Coalition of Urban and Metropolitan Universities
Common App
Council for Advancement and Support of Education
Council for Higher Education Accreditation
Council for Opportunity in Education
Council of Graduate Schools
Council on Social Work Education
EDUCAUSE
ETS
Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities
NAFSA: Association of International Educators
NASPA - Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education
National Association of College and University Business Officers
National Association of Colleges and Employers
National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators
National Council for Community and Education Partnerships
Phi Beta Kappa Society
UPCEA