

AMERICAN COUNCIL ON EDUCATION



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

April 28, 2009

U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

**Re: Support for S. Con. Res. 13**

Dear Representative,

We write on behalf of the higher education associations listed below to express our support for the concurrent budget resolution adopted by conferees this week and urge you to vote in support of it.

We are pleased that S. Con. Res. 13 includes instructions to the authorizing committees to reduce the deficit, while providing for the conversion of the Pell Grant program to a full entitlement. Conversion to a fully mandatory Pell Grant would provide needed stability and ensure a level of predictability for students as they calculate their financial aid going forward.

Previous Congresses have tried to make this important change to the Pell Grant program, but have been unable to do so. The 111<sup>th</sup> Congress has a unique opportunity to realize this goal due to the \$94 billion in budget savings that could be redirected to underwrite the cost of the entitlement.

We ask you to vote in favor of S. Con. Res. 13 and instruct the authorizing committee to develop this proposal and return legislation to the House to move Pell Grants to the mandatory side of the budget, securing the future of the Pell Grant program. As part of achieving the goal of a full Pell entitlement, we understand Congress will be looking to modify existing federal student loan and grant programs, and any such changes would be of great interest to our member institutions, administrators and students.

We welcome the discussion and look forward to working with you as you draft legislation to best serve America's students and families.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Molly C. Broad". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Molly Corbett Broad  
President

MCB/ldw

On behalf of:

American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admission Officers

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American Association of Community Colleges  
American Association of State Colleges and Universities  
American Council on Education  
Association of American Universities  
Association of Community College Trustees  
Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities  
Association of Public and Land-grant Universities  
Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities  
National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators  
United Negro College Fund  
United States Student Association