



May 4, 2010

United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Support Supplemental Funding for the Pell Grant Shortfall

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the higher education institutions and associations listed below, we write to alert you to the pending emergency in the Pell Grant program, and to ask your support in resolving it.

The recently enacted Health Care and Education Affordability Reconciliation Act (HCERA) established a ten-year mandatory funds account for the Pell Grant program intended to provide annual increases in the maximum award on top of its appropriated base. However, instead of the promised increase, this year millions of students could be looking at a sizable cut in their Pell Grant and thousands of others could see their grant eliminated entirely. The underlying problem stems from a multi-year, recession-based shortfall that the program has accumulated. While the reconciliation legislation retired a sizable portion of the very large funding shortfall, \$5.5 billion is still needed in FY 2010 to pay off the remainder.

Without supplemental appropriations for FY 2010, the Appropriations Committees will have to pay for the shortfall out of their FY 2011 allocations before spending any additional funds on other education, health or labor programs. In such a tight budget year, this could force the Appropriations Committees to cut funding for other programs to preserve Pell. If \$5.5 billion were to be taken from the Pell Grant program directly, such a cut would reduce the Pell Grant maximum to \$2,840, immediately after Congress promised students a \$5,550 award level.

This shortfall is a direct result of the current economic climate. Whenever the economy has struggled, workers turn to higher education to better prepare themselves for jobs; college students stay in school rather than join the ranks of the unemployed; and family need exacerbates the pressure on student aid programs. As a result, Pell Grant applications are up almost 20 percent annually, compared to the estimated 3 percent increase under normal circumstances.

We therefore ask that you support the provision of the necessary funds to close the existing Pell Grant shortfall, ensuring that critically needed student aid is not cut in FY2011 and that Congress fulfills its promise to America's students.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Molly Corbett Broad".

Molly Corbett Broad
Co-Chairman

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David Warren".

David Warren
Co-Chairman

2010 Members

AACRAO: American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers
Alliance for Excellent Education
American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education
American Association of Colleges of Nursing
American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine
American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy
American Association of Community Colleges
American Association of State Colleges and Universities
American Council on Education
American Dental Education Association
American Federation of Teachers
American Student Association of Community Colleges
Association of American Universities
Association of Community College Trustees
Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges
Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities
Coalition of Higher Education Assistance Organization
College Parents of America
Columbia University
Consortium of Universities of the Washington Metropolitan Area
Council for Higher Education Accreditation
Council for Opportunity in Education
Council of Graduate Schools
Council of Independent Colleges
Educational Testing Service
EDUCAUSE
Georgetown University
Harvard University
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Michigan State University
NASSGAP Federal Relations Committee
National Association for College Admission Counseling
National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education

National Association of College and University Business Officers
National Association of College Stores
National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities
National Association of State Student Grant and Aid Programs
National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges
National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators
National Association of Student Personnel Administrators
National College Access Network
National Council for Community and Education Partnerships
National Council of Higher Education Loan Programs, Inc.
National Education Association
National Education Organization
New York Higher Education Services Corp.
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
The California State University
The College Board
The Fashion Institute of Design & Merchandising
The Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities
The National Collegiate Athletic Association
U.S. Public Interest Research Group
United Negro College Fund
United States Student Association
University of California
University of Maryland System
University of Michigan
University of Southern California
University of Washington
Utah Valley State College
Vanderbilt University

