March 22, 2023

The Honorable Patty Murray  
Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Susan Collins  
Vice Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kay Granger  
Chair, House Appropriations Committee  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member, House Appropriations Committee  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair Murray, Chair Granger, Vice Chair Collins, and Ranking Member DeLauro:

As Congress works toward a spending agreement for fiscal year 2024, the undersigned organizations write to urge Congress to make bold new investments in the Pell Grant program, with the goal of increasing the maximum Pell award to $13,000. Over the past three years, Congress has made tremendous progress toward this goal, increasing the Pell Grant maximum award by more than $1,000. To make higher education more affordable and accessible to those most in need of support, we must build upon this progress with additional investments.

Pell Grants allow more than seven million low- and middle-income students — including nearly 60 percent of Black undergraduates and almost half of Latino undergraduates — to attend and complete college each year. Yet, the current maximum Pell award still covers the lowest share of costs in the program’s 50-year history. Pell Grant recipients today are more than twice as likely as other students to have student loans, and recipients who borrow graduate with over $4,500 more debt than their higher-income peers.

Raising the maximum Pell award to $13,000 is an effective, targeted way to make college more affordable and lower student debt burdens for millions of students. A postsecondary credential or degree is an increasingly necessary gateway to economic opportunity, and a strong Pell Grant is critical to ensuring that students from all financial backgrounds can participate and grow a strong, diverse economy.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter, and we look forward to working with you to protect and invest in the Pell Grant program.
Sincerely,

10,000 Degrees  
AACTE (American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education)  
Alabama Possible  
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 Association of University Women  
American Council on Education  
American Federation of Teachers  
American Indian Higher Education Consortium (AIHEC)  
Americans for Financial Reform  
APIA Scholars  
Arizona Students’ Association  
Associated Students of the University of California, Berkeley  
Associated Students of UC Irvine  
Association of American Universities (AAU)  
Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities  
Association of Community College Trustees  
Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities  
Association of Public and Land-grant Universities  
Association of Research Libraries (ARL)  
Bottom Line  
Breakthrough Central Texas  
California Student Aid Commission  
Campaign for College Opportunity  
Capital Area College Access Network (Lansing, MI)  
CCCU – Council for Christian Colleges & Universities  
Center for First-generation Student Success  
Coalition of Higher Education Assistance Organizations  
Coalition of State University Aid Administrators  
College & Community Fellowship  
College Beyond  
Complete College America  
Consumer Action  
Council for Opportunity in Education (COE)  
Council of Independent Colleges  
Council on Social Work Education  
Degrees of Change  
Denver Scholarship Foundation  
Dr. Doretha Pressey Southern Scholars Initiative, Inc.  
EDUCAUSE  
Excelencia in Education  
Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce  
Higher Education Loan Coalition  
Higher Education Program, New America
Higher Learning Advocates
Hildreth Institute
iMentor Bay Area
Indigenous Education, Inc.
Institute for Higher Education Policy (IHEP)
Jain Family Institute
John Burton Advocate for Youth
KIPP Public Schools
Latino U College Access (LUCA)
LeadMN – College Students Connecting for Change
Michigan League for Public Policy
Middle States Commission on Higher Education
More Than Bootstraps
Muskegon Opportunity & Muskegon Area Promise
NAACP
National Association for College Admission Counseling
National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities
National Association of State Student Grant & Aid Programs
National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators
National College Attainment Network
National Consumer Law Center (on behalf of its low-income clients)
National Education Association
National Scholarship Providers Association
NextGen California
Northern California College Promise Coalition
Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities
Ohio Student Association
OneGoal
Onward We Learn
Oregon Student Association
Partnership for Los Angeles Schools
Partnership for the Future
Penn AHEAD
Pennsylvania Association for College Admission Counseling
Phi Beta Kappa Society
Public Citizen
Reach Higher
Rutgers University Student Assembly
Southern California College Attainment Network
State Higher Education Executive Officers Association
Student Debt Crisis Center
Student Public Interest Research Groups (PIRGs)
Student Senate for California Community Colleges
Student Veterans of America
Students Rising Above
Students United
The Education Trust
The Institute for College Access & Success (TICAS)
The National Indian Education Association
The Opportunity Network
The Peninsula College Fund
The Pittsburgh Promise
Third Way
uAspire
UNCF
UnidosUS
UNITE-LA
Worthington Scholarship Foundation
Yes We Must Coalition
Young Invincibles

cc: The Honorable Tammy Baldwin
The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
The Honorable Robert Aderholt