

September 15, 2021

Dear Member of Congress,

University of Illinois
President Timothy L. Killeen

Chicago State University
President Zaldwaynaka Scott

Eastern Illinois University
President David M. Glassman

Governors State University
President Cheryl F. Green

Illinois State University
President Terri Goss Kinzy

Northeastern Illinois University
President Gloria J. Gibson

Northern Illinois University
President Lisa C. Freeman

Southern Illinois University
President Daniel F. Mahony

Western Illinois University
President Guiyou Huang

We write to offer our perspective on the reconciliation legislation currently being assembled in the House of Representatives. We are extremely pleased by proposals to increase investments in higher education, research and research infrastructure, such as retention and completion grants for states. We are concerned, however, that the draft legislation does not do enough to boost funding for Pell Grants.

We wrote in [May](#) and again in [July](#) to underscore the crucial role that Pell Grants play in allowing low- and middle-income students to attend college. At the time, we expressed our support for doubling the maximum Pell award to \$13,000 and indexing the grant to inflation. The administration's American Families Plan proposed increasing the maximum award – currently \$6,495 – by approximately \$1,400 as a “down payment on President Biden’s commitment to double the maximum award.”

Unfortunately, the reconciliation legislation approved on Friday by the House Education and Labor Committee would provide only a \$500 increase to the maximum award. We appreciate that there are many competing priorities. However, after years of inadequate funding for Pell, it is time for Congress to take stronger action to support students and families. Accordingly, we ask that you urge congressional leadership to ensure that reconciliation legislation includes more robust funding for Pell.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,



University of Illinois
President Timothy L. Killeen



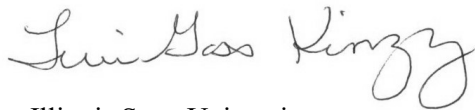
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