

From: NAICU Presidents Network [mailto:presnet@naicu.edu]
Sent: Friday, July 29, 2011 12:12 PM
To: NAICU Presidents Network
Subject: [presnet] Action Alert: Urgent Call for Pell Funding Support
Importance: High

Colleagues,

Please contact your representatives and senators, asking them to keep Pell Grant funding in the Debt Deal this weekend.

- Call 202-225-3121 and ask for your representative's office.
- Call 202-224-3121 and ask for your senator's office.

Get the Word Out on Twitter and Facebook: While few students are on campus right now, many follow your institution's Twitter and Facebook accounts. Tell them that Pell Grants are on the chopping block and that Congress needs to hear from them. Include a link to the [Student Aid Alliance Contact Congress web tool](#). You can paste this shortened link to the Student Aid Alliance tool into your message: <http://bit.ly/oh6MQ8>

If Possible, Visit: Congress will be in session in Washington this weekend, but you also can visit their district offices to let them know how important funding for the Pell Grant program is in the debt deal.

Background: The House and Senate plans to raise the debt ceiling and create a deficit reduction plan presently include increased funding for the Pell Grant program for the 2012-13 school year. While the House and Senate go back and forth on the details of a package acceptable for passage, **taking out the Pell Grant funding to get votes was floated as an option this morning.** This is unacceptable for low-income students paying for college.

While we are disappointed the Pell Grant funding is paid for by eliminating the in-school interest subsidy for graduate student loans, all parties have agreed to make this cut. If this funding is not included in the package, there will not be enough money to fund the \$5,550 maximum grant next year, and other priority student aid, education and health programs will be put in jeopardy of deep cuts in the appropriations process this fall.

Thanks you for your prompt response to this critically urgent request.

David

David L. Warren
President, NAICU