**Letter to member of Congress from leader of private, nonprofit institution.**

Dear :

I am writing to encourage your support of doubling the Pell Grant through the budget reconciliation process this fall and before the program’s 50th anniversary in June 2022.

There are many reasons why doubling the Pell Grant is of vital importance to our community, state and nation.

First, Pell Grants help students in all states and territories, in all corners of the country, whether rural, urban or in between. Students of all backgrounds receive Pell Grants, with nearly 60% of Black students; half of American Indian or American Native Students; nearly half of Latino students; and 30% of White students using Pell Grants to help pay for college.

Doubling Pell will put more money in the hands of students first, and allow them to use it anywhere in the country. If the Pell Grant is doubled, not only will current students receive increased grants, but the pool of eligible students will grow, providing more working-class students access to aid.

The wide variety and great diversity of colleges and universities in America is a huge asset. Pell Grants allow individual students to pursue their own aspirations in life by attending the institution that best fits their needs, whether that is a community college, a public university or a private, nonprofit college like (**FILL IN NAME OF YOUR INSTITUTION**).

Second, doubling the Pell Grant is critically important to helping America work toward economic recovery from the COVID-induced downturn. America was crushed by the pandemic not only in terms of public health but in terms of our economy. Over 20 million people lost jobs at the beginning of the pandemic, and many are still struggling today to return to work.

Our economy desperately needs policies to accelerate the return to pre-pandemic economic activity. Doubling Pell Grants will certainly accelerate this process for both the individuals who receive this help and the institutions located in big cities and small towns throughout the nation that have a tremendous impact on the places we live work.

Third, Pell Grants have had an enormous impact on our state and region. (**Insert state and congressional district specific information about the amount of Pell Grant money flowing into the state and region using NAICU’s** [**Student Aid Data Sheets**](https://www.naicu.edu/policy-advocacy/federal-student-aid-data-sheets)**)***.* They have also had a huge impact on our institution. **(Insert here numbers relating to institutional impact of Pell Grants on individual institution, including the number or percentage of Pell recipients on your campus).**

Broad-based support for doubling Pell already exists throughout all parts of American higher education and is widely viewed as the single most important step Congress can take to make college more accessible for low income and first-generation students.

This investment will pay off not just for recipients but for our nation as well. Indeed, studies have shown that the income levels for bachelor’s degree recipients are 40% above the levels for individuals who completed a high school degree. And the additional revenue paid in taxes by these individuals means the money spent to increase the Pell Grant maximum is returned to government coffers within a decade - a stunning indicator that this wise investment works both for individuals and for tax payers.

The Pell Grant program has been enormously successful, helping more than 100 million students from low- and middle-income households pursue their dreams and achieve their goals in higher education. I would be happy to speak with you or your staff in more detail about how important doubling Pell Grants is to our institution, community, state, and nation.

Sincerely yours,

Name & Title