

## TEMPLATE FOR ONE MINUTE/MORNING BUSINESS SPEECH ON PELL

Madam Speaker/Mr. President, I rise today to mark the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Pell Grant Program.

In 1972, Congress amended the Higher Education Act by creating the Basic Educational Opportunity Grant, to provide direct financial aid to low-income students so they would have the same access to higher education and opportunity for success as their higher income peers. This program was later named the Pell Grant for its original sponsor, Sen. Claiborne Pell, Democrat from Rhode Island. The original bill was signed into law by Republican President Richard Nixon, and the program has maintained this original bipartisan support over the last 50 years.

*[If the Member of Congress was a Pell Grant recipient, share that story, for example, “I would not be here today without the Pell Grant I received to go to college . . .” ] or*

*[Share a story about a constituent Pell Grant student to highlight the importance of the program.]*

More than 80 million students have received a Pell Grant to go to college since the program’s creation. Currently, nearly 7 million students are going to college with Pell Grants, which is about 40 percent of undergraduate students. Students can use a Pell Grant at the college of their choice, whether public, private, two-year or four-year.

In my district/state, **XX,XXX** students are receiving **\$XXX,XXX** to pursue their higher education goals at our local colleges. *[Use <https://www.naicu.edu/policy-advocacy/federal-student-aid-data-sheets> to look up Pell Data by state and district.]*

The federal investment in Pell Grants is targeted to students with demonstrated financial need, with most families at incomes of \$40,000 or less, and the investment pays off by increasing college completion, and economic mobility.

As we approach the 50-year mark on the Pell Grant program, I encourage the United States to celebrate “National Pell Grant Day,” on June 23, by recognizing the current students and successful graduates who have benefited from the program by telling their student success stories and encouraging the same access for future students.

Madam Speaker/Mr. President, I look forward to Congress continuing the bipartisan support for low-income student access to college through the Pell Grant for another 50 years. I urge my colleagues to support the bipartisan resolution declaring June 23, 2022, National Pell Grant Day this year, and in the future.