CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing support for the designation of June 23, 2022, as National Federal Pell Grant Day.

Whereas June 23 is the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Education Amendments Act of 1972 (Public Law 92–318; 86 Stat. 235) by President Richard Nixon;

Whereas these amendments to the Higher Education Act of 1965 created the Basic Educational Opportunity Grant, later named the Federal Pell Grant in honor of its sponsor, Senator Claiborne Pell;

Whereas, 50 years ago, Senator Pell said “for it’s through this Act that the dream of access, and opportunity for college education becomes a reality. It’s in this Act that we say a lack of financial wealth should not, and will not,
stand in the way of a person who has the talent, the desire and the drive to reach out for a college education.”

Whereas, 50 years later, this program to help low-income students pursue their higher education goals maintains bipartisan support in Congress and bipartisan support with the public;

Whereas in 2022, Federal Pell Grants are helping nearly 7,000,000 students, or about 40 percent of undergraduate students, pursue and succeed in higher education;

Whereas Federal Pell Grants help students from all 50 States, the District of Columbia, and United States territories, from rural areas to cities and everywhere in between;

Whereas the Federal Pell Grant Program is well-targeted to meet the needs of students with demonstrated financial need, with the vast majority of Federal Pell Grant recipients having family incomes of $40,000 or less;

Whereas extensive research shows that the Federal Pell Grant Program increases college enrollment and completion among low- and moderate-income students;

Whereas Federal Pell Grants are critical for students from historically underrepresented backgrounds, including 58 percent of Black students, 47 percent of Hispanic students, 51 percent of American Indian/Alaska Native students, 48 percent of first-generation students, 52 percent of parenting students, and 39 percent of student veterans;

Whereas students use their Federal Pell Grant at the institutions of their choice, which can include public, private, 2-year, and 4-year institutions of higher education;
Whereas the program is a proven investment to boost future economic mobility, with college graduates paying more in taxes and earning more in after-tax income than high school graduates; and

Whereas, over the past 50 years, the Federal Pell Grant Program has helped over 80 million Americans: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That Congress—

(1) celebrates the 50th anniversary of the Federal Pell Grant Program;

(2) expresses support for the designation of National Federal Pell Grant Day this year and in future years; and

(3) encourages all people in the United States to celebrate National Federal Pell Grant Day by recognizing the more than 80 million individual low- and middle-income eligible students that have benefitted from the Federal Pell Grant over the years by celebrating their student success stories and by ensuring the same access for future students.