

June 14, 2022



Dear Colleague:

I apologize for the quick turnaround on this request, but we have just been provided text of a bipartisan congressional resolution celebrating and honoring the 50th anniversary of the Pell Grant and commemorating June 23 as “**National Pell Grant Day**” that needs your action before COB this Wednesday, June 15. The Pell Grant program was enacted on June 23, 1972.

I am writing to ask you to reach out to your Members of Congress and urge them to co-sponsor the resolution in the House and Senate, and to make a floor speech celebrating 50 years of Pell. Here are the [resolution](#) and the [details](#) for a Member of Congress to add their name to the list of co-sponsors.

The deadline for signing on as a co-sponsor is **midnight Eastern Daylight Time on Wednesday, June 15.**

So, please:

- **Encourage your Representative and Senators to support “National Pell Grant Day.”** The House version of the resolution is sponsored by Reps. Rosa DeLauro (D-CT) and Tom Cole (R-OK) and the Senate version is co-sponsored by Sens. Patty Murray (D-WA) and Roy Blunt (R-MO). Please reach out to your Members of Congress and ask them to show their support for and add their names to the resolutions marking June 23 as “National Pell Grant Day.”
- **Encourage your Representative and Senators to make a floor speech celebrating the 50th anniversary.** NAICU has drafted a [one-minute floor speech](#) that you can share with your congressional delegation as a template to celebrate the program. It includes historical information, and a link to the NAICU [Student Aid Data Sheets](#) to highlight the amount of federal student aid, including the number of Pell Grant recipients, in your district and state. Please ask your representatives to take to the floor of Congress the week of June 20 to celebrate 50 years of Pell with their own speech.

Importantly, we have seen tremendous bipartisan enthusiasm from elected officials, including President Biden, Education Secretary Miguel Cardona, and key Members of Congress, showing renewed support for the Pell Grant. We’d like to increase that support by generating as many co-sponsors to the “National Pell Day” resolution as we can and having Members take to the floor in Congress to highlight the grant’s national impact.

Once you’ve reached out to your congressional delegation, here are ways you can show your support for Pell on campus as well:

- **Organize your own campus celebration.** I hope you will consider ways you can celebrate the anniversary of the Pell Grant program on your campus this summer, and throughout the remainder of the anniversary year. It could be hosting a campus event, creating a short video testimonial or social media content highlighting Pell Grant recipients, or drafting an op-ed about the impact of the grant on your campus. Were you a Pell Grant recipient? Sharing your story about the impact the Pell Grant has had on your life as a college president can be influential

with Members of Congress as well. If you do organize an event or generate media attention, please let us know by emailing president@NAICU.edu.

- **Engage on Social Media.** In the days leading up to the 23rd, the day of, and beyond, organizations and institutions will be posting their support for the Pell Grant on social media using the **#PellTurns50**. NAICU, in cooperation with many other higher education associations and advocacy groups, has created [tools and resources](#) to help with your social media efforts. This is a great time to highlight students, alumni, local leaders, and others who have benefited from Pell Grants.

Throughout our campaign, we have seen hundreds of student stories posted online, dozens of op-eds published, and thousands of letters sent to Members of Congress here in Washington supporting the Pell Grant. The media is also picking up on this as we have seen increased coverage of the Pell Grant in recent weeks.

The Pell Grant has had such a tremendous, and in some cases generational, impact on the 80 million students and families who have received these critical funds. While our work will not end on June 23, I hope you will take a few minutes to help us show Congress and the Administration just how truly important and impactful the Pell Grant is as we mark this historic day. Thank you for your continued commitment to these efforts.

Regards,

Barbara

Barbara K. Mistick, D.M.

President

National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities