



February 2, 2009

United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Support Pell Grant Funding in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009

Dear Senator:

On behalf of more than 80 organizations representing college students, parents, presidents, faculty and staff, and higher education institutions, we strongly support including increased funding for the Pell Grant Program in S.1, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 that the Senate will consider beginning today.

Increasing the maximum Pell Grant helps current students stay in college, laid-off workers pursue retraining, or current workers enhance their skills to keep their jobs. This investment in the Pell Grant Program is akin to the investment our nation made in the aftermath of World War II for the GI Bill. Not only did it honor returning veterans, but it also was implemented as a policy response to stave off a return to Depression-era unemployment rates as vast numbers service men and women came home from war to look for work. We see the Pell Grant funding in this bill as a proactive step to help mitigate high unemployment and spark the education and innovation that will result in future economic growth. The increase proposed in S. 1 will enable 60,000 students to join the program, while increasing benefits to more than 5 million recipients.

The Pell Grant and Perkins Loan Programs are targeted toward students with the highest need and are disbursed through proven funding formulas. By helping families struggling to pay for college, workers retraining for new jobs, and students preparing to enter a difficult job market, this support will help to lead America out of the current economic crisis, while building the basis for a stronger economy going forward. Making this investment in student aid will not only provide immediate relief to students, families, and displaced workers, but it will also have a stimulative effect in cities and towns where colleges and universities are the drivers of the local economy.

As you debate and consider amendments to S.1, we ask you to support the inclusion of funding for the Pell Grant and Perkins Loan Programs as key components of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 and vote against any substitute amendment that does not contain funding for these important programs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Molly C. Broad".

Molly Corbett Broad
Co-Chairman

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Warren".

David Warren
Co-Chairman

Student Aid Alliance



2009 Members

AACRAO: American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers
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Student Aid Alliance

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