

THE
NEW ENGLAND
COUNCIL

March 8, 2021

The Honorable New England Delegation
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators,

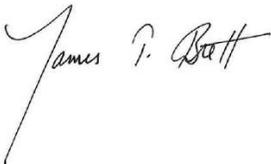
On behalf of The New England Council, I write today to encourage you to support enacting a proposal to double the Pell Grant maximum and ensure that increase is permanent by making the increased portion of the grant an entitlement. Doubling Pell would be the single most important step Congress could take to make college possible for low-income and first-generation college students. Expanding the grant would also ensure that more working-class families are served through the program. Pell Grants are the largest education funding mechanism for low-income families, targeting financial education support to the neediest and having the largest impact on developing our communities and workforce.

This year, the program will provide more than \$1.2 billion to help needy students attend college across New England. The impact this program has had on the New England system of higher education is without comparison. The New England Council stands in support of collective efforts to ensure this program can continue to transform the lives of students.

As you know, The New England Council is a non-partisan alliance of businesses, academic and health institutions, and public and private organizations throughout New England formed to promote economic growth and a high quality of life in the New England region. Our membership includes over 100 colleges and universities throughout the region, who are committed to providing the best possible education to our students to prepare them for career success. The Council's membership also includes hundreds of employers of all types and sizes who depend upon these higher education institutions to help provide a pipeline of skilled workers to ensure our region's continued economic growth. We believe that doubling the Pell Grant would help our region, our nation, our students, our educators, and ultimately, our region's overall economic wellbeing.

Next year, our nation will celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Pell Grant program. It would be a great tribute to our region and our nation to honor of this important milestone by doubling the Pell Grant through an entitlement involving mandatory spending, thereby permanently ensuring this vital education support.

Sincerely,



James T. Brett
President & CEO

The New England Council

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