



June 15, 2010

U. S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

**Re: Include Funding for the Pell Grant Shortfall in Supplemental Appropriations**

Dear Representative:

As the House of Representatives considers making supplemental appropriations for this year, we urge you to include the \$5.7 billion needed to retire a recession-driven shortfall in the Pell Grant program. Pell Grants are the foundation of all federal financial aid, and the key to nearly nine million students' and their families' ability to afford a higher education.

If the shortfall is not covered in supplemental appropriations, low- and middle-income students will face a cut of \$845 in the maximum Pell Grant award from the \$5,550 Congress has promised them. A cut of this magnitude – more than 15% -- means that hundreds of thousands of students will lose their grants and millions of others will have their awards severely cut. Such a significant reduction, while our economy is still recovering, would seriously harm the ability of deserving students to finish their educations and gain the skills and knowledge necessary to fuel economic growth.

The recently enacted Health Care and Education Affordability Reconciliation Act (HCERA) established a ten-year mandatory funds account for the Pell Grant program, intended to provide annual increases in the maximum award on top of its appropriated base. As part of that legislation, a sizable portion of the existing funding shortfall was retired, but \$5.7 billion is still needed in FY 2010 to pay off the remainder.

Additionally, if the current accumulated shortfall is not retired through supplemental appropriations now, the Appropriations Committees will have to pay for the shortfall out of their FY 2011 allocations before spending any additional funds in other areas. In such a tight budget year, this could force the Appropriations Committees to cut funding for other programs to preserve Pell.

As students, parents, faculty, administrators and college presidents, our members see first-hand the impact federal financial aid has on students seeking to earn their educations. Low-income students depend on Pell Grants to afford college. We ask you, on behalf of these students and our members, to include funding for the Pell Grant shortfall in the supplemental appropriations under consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Molly Corbett Broad".

Molly Corbett Broad  
Co-Chairman

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David Warren".

David Warren  
Co-Chairman

# Student Aid Alliance



## 2010 Members

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### Student Aid Alliance

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