

U.S. Congress
Washington, D.C. 20515

April 5, 2011

Dear Member of Congress:

As you head into final negotiations on legislation to fund the government through the end of fiscal year 2011, we urge you to continue investing in our country's future and to prevent a cut to the Pell Grants students are counting on to attend school this fall. Pell Grants are the cornerstone of the federal financial aid system, enabling over nine million students to afford higher education and post-secondary job training at a time when our economy needs more people with advanced skills and training.

The financial aid award process is well underway at schools across the country. Colleges have already sent out millions of letters offering financial aid to students based on the current Pell Grant maximum award. Funding Pell Grants at anything less than the \$5,550 maximum award now would create [widespread harm and disruption](#): not just for students and their families, but for all institutions of higher education and their employees. Many students and their families have already sat down at their kitchen tables to budget for the upcoming academic year and make attendance choices based on this crucial information. Cutting Pell Grants at this time will jeopardize many students' ability to attend college in the fall and create financial chaos at schools.

On behalf of millions of students and families across the country, we urge you to fully fund Pell Grants by maintaining the current \$5,550 maximum grant award. If Congress cuts Pell Grant funding for fiscal year 2011 at this time, it will have the [effect of rescinding aid](#) that has already been promised since December to millions of students, and upending the decisions that were made in good faith by both families and colleges. We urge you not to do this.

Sincerely,

American Student Association of Community Colleges
Campus Progress Action
The Institute of College Access and Success
United States Student Association
US PIRG
Young Invincibles