

THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA



THE CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY



CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES



ASSOCIATION OF INDEPENDENT CALIFORNIA COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

March 27, 2026

Dear California Delegation Colleague:

On behalf of over 834,000 Pell Grant student recipients attending a public or independent college or university in the State of California, we respectfully urge you to prioritize and advocate for full funding of the Federal Pell Grant program in the Fiscal Year 2027 Appropriations process.

The Pell Grant program is the cornerstone of higher education access. It supports millions of low- and moderate-income students to achieve their academic goals and build careers to support their families. Without adequate funding, students across California and the nation risk losing critical financial support that allows them to pursue their degree and access to economic self-sufficiency.

An additional $16.9 billion is needed in Fiscal Year 2027 to prevent cuts to the program for the 2027–2028 academic year. Failure to meet this need would jeopardize college and limit opportunities for students striving to build a better future because lawmakers would need to reduce the maximum award or curtail student eligibility to reduce program costs.

We urge you to act decisively to protect and strengthen the Pell Grant program by committing to full funding in FY2027.

Thank you for your leadership and consideration.

Sincerely,

Lauren Schwensen
Director of Federal Relations
The California State University

Linda Vasquez
Assistant Vice Chancellor, Gov't Relations
California Community Colleges

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