

April 17, 2025

The Honorable Sean Casten  
United States House of Representatives  
2440 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C., 20515

The Honorable Susie Lee  
United States House of Representatives  
365 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C., 20515

Dear Representatives Casten and Lee,

I am writing on behalf of Education Finance Council (EFC) to endorse H.R. 1666, the *Pell Grant Sustainability Act*. EFC supports your proposal to index the Pell Grant to inflation, ensuring that students with the greatest financial need are able to afford college.

Education Finance Council (EFC) is the national trade association representing nonprofit and state-based higher education finance organizations. EFC members increase postsecondary education access, success, and affordability by providing a wide range of free resources and services to millions of students and families every year. EFC members are driven by a public purpose mission to support students as they seek to grow their skills and improve their lives.

From Academic Year (AY) 2014-2015 to 2024-2025, the maximum Pell Grant award declined by 2.7 percent after adjusting for inflation – even though the maximum award increased by \$500 in AY 2023-2024.<sup>1</sup> The Pell Grant is an essential form of federal student aid for students who face the greatest financial barriers to accessing and completing postsecondary education. Pell Grants' diminishing value over time puts the most vulnerable students at risk.

As the real value of the Pell Grant has decreased, the volume of student loan balances has continued to increase.<sup>2</sup> By passing the *Pell Grant Sustainability Act*, Congress can ensure that the purchasing power of its most foundational resource for students in need is preserved for current and future generations. Without this legislative fix, students will be forced to take on more student loans to afford their degree – only perpetuating our current debt crisis.

EFC is proud to endorse this legislation, and we look forward to collaborating with you to advance public policies that protect college access and affordability for borrowers

Sincerely,



Gail daMota  
President

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<sup>1</sup> [College Board, Trends in College Pricing and Student Aid 2024](#)

<sup>2</sup> [Federal Reserve Bank of New York, Student Loan Balance and Repayment Trends Since the Pandemic Disruption](#)