



March 24, 2023

Dear New England Delegation,

On behalf of The New England Council, I write today to encourage you to support the initiative to double the maximum amount for the Pell Grant program, and ensure that any increase is permanent by making the increased portion of the grant an entitlement.

Doubling the Pell Grant is the **most impactful** step Congress can take to make public, private, and community colleges more accessible for low-income and first-generation college students. As Pell Grants are already the largest and most effective education funding mechanism for low-income families, expanding the grant ensures that even more working-class families are served through the program at a higher rate.

While we were pleased that the President Biden's FY2024 budget proposal included a \$500 increase to the maximum Pell grant, we firmly believe that doubling the Pell Grant would be a long term solution. The impact this program has had on the New England higher education system is incomparable; however, there remain too many families who currently do not have access to these funds or for whom the funds do not align with the rising costs. At the same time, as our region's economy continues to grow, it is vital that we continue to develop a talent pipeline of highly skilled individuals to fill the jobs that will be created in the years to come. The New England Council supports the collective effort to ensure this program can continue to create transformative opportunities for all Americans, and help prepare the workforce of the future.

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. Doubling the Pell Grant will help our region, our nation, our students, our educators, and ultimately our economy, workforce and communities.

In honor of the 51-year longevity and importance of this program, the Pell Grant must be doubled and paid for through an entitlement involving mandatory spending, thereby permanently ensuring this vital education support. If you have any questions or would like more information on this matter, please contact Mariah Healy, Director of Federal Affairs in our Washington, DC, office, at [mhealy@newenglandcouncil.com](mailto:mhealy@newenglandcouncil.com) or 301-785-6126.

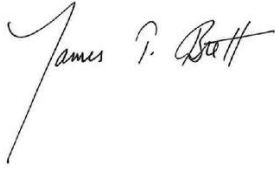
Respectfully,

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**The New England Council**

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THE  
NEW ENGLAND  
COUNCIL



James T. Brett

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