



May 6, 2024

Dear New England Delegation,

On behalf of The New England Council, we write today to thank you for passing the recent Fiscal Year 2024 Appropriations package with level funding for the Pell Grant, as well as consistently increasing this important program during the last funding cycle. While we are of course supportive of doubling the maximum amount for the Pell Grant program, we understand the work that it took to ensure level funding for this year and appreciate your efforts.

Continuing to increase funding and eventually 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. Below you will find [data](#) from the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities highlighting the number of Pell Grants and Amount of money given through Pell Grant's per New England State in the 2022-2023 school year.

State	2022-23 Federal Pell Grants Award	2022-23 Federal Pell Grants Amount
Connecticut	79,774	\$331,877,067
Maine	22,064	\$87,877,961
Massachusetts	90,645	\$408,544,971
New Hampshire	107,775	\$286,982,626
Rhode Island	21,091	\$90,908,312
Vermont	8,229	\$34,585,380

Going forward, we are pleased that President Biden's FY2025 budget proposal includes a funding increase for the Pell grant that moves towards doubling Pell by 2029. We support this proposal and firmly believe that doubling the Pell Grant would be an impactful, long-term solution to addressing college affordability for student most in need. The impact Pell Grants have 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 diverse and highly skilled 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.

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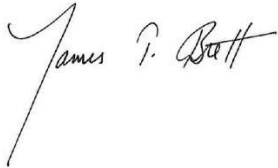
**The New England Council**

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THE  
NEW ENGLAND  
COUNCIL

Again, on behalf of the higher education members of the New England Council, thank you for passing the recent FY24 Appropriations package with level funding levels for the Pell Grant. 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).

Respectfully,



James T. Brett

President and CEO

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