

# THE NEW ENGLAND COUNCIL

September 29, 2025

Dear New England Delegation,

On behalf of The New England Council, we write today to urge you to include important funding for low-income college students in the final FY26 Appropriations package. 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.

We were pleased to see continued funding for Pell Grants included in both the House and Senate versions. 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. The impact Pell Grants have had on the New England higher education system is incomparable. 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.

However, we were **concerned** by the elimination of Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (SEOG) funding, and the deep cut to Federal Work-Study (FWS) funding in the House version. SEOG and FWS are critical components of a low-income student's financial aid package that help students choose the college that best fits their needs. Notably, FWS participants are more likely to graduate from college and get a job than non-participants. We urge you to maintain funding for these critical programs.

Again, on behalf of the higher education members of the New England Council, thank you for your attention to this matter. 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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## The New England Council

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