To increase Federal Pell Grants for the children of fallen police officers, firefighters, and other public safety officers.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
AUGUST 2, 2012
Mr. FITZPATRICK (for himself, Mr. PETERS, Mr. GERLACH, Mr. KEATING, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. GRIMM, Mr. PLATTS, Mr. NUGENT, Ms. SCHWARTZ, Ms. NORTON, and Mr. MEEHAN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

A BILL
To increase Federal Pell Grants for the children of fallen police officers, firefighters, and other public safety officers.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Children of Fallen Heroes Scholarship Act of 2012”.

SECTION 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) 2011 was a deadly year for law enforcement officers, with 163 men and women killed in the line
of duty, which is a 15 percent increase from the
number of law enforcement officers killed in the line
of duty in 2010. In 2011, 80 firefighters lost their
lives and 19 paramedics suffered fatalities in the line
of duty.

(2) Congress recognizes the sacrifice of the
families of fallen public safety officers.

(3) The financial loss for a family with children
could be detrimental for decades.

(4) Families who have given the ultimate sac-
rifice deserve the support of the American people as
their children pursue higher education.

SEC. 3. CALCULATION OF FEDERAL PELL GRANT ELIGI-
BILITY.

Section 401(f) of the Higher Education Act of 1965
(20 U.S.C. 1070a(f)) is amended by adding at the end
the following new paragraph:

“(4)(A) Notwithstanding paragraph (1) or any
other provision of this section, the expected family
contribution of each student described in subpara-
graph (B) shall be deemed to be zero for the period
during which each such student is eligible to receive
a Federal Pell Grant under subsection (c).

“(B) Subparagraph (A) shall apply to any stu-
dent at an institution of higher education—
“(i) whose parent or guardian—

“(I) was actively serving as a police officer, firefighter, or other public safety officer; and

“(II) died as a result of performing a public safety service; and

“(ii) who was 18 years or less, or was enrolled as a full-time or part-time student at an institution of higher education, as of the time of the parent or guardian’s death.

“(C) For purposes of this paragraph—

“(i) the term ‘police officer, firefighter, or other public safety officer’ means an individual who—

“(I) is a law enforcement officer or firefighter in a police department or fire department which is organized and operated by a State or political subdivision to provide police protection, firefighting services, or emergency medical services for any area within the jurisdiction of such State or political subdivision;

“(II) is an emergency medical services provider who provides out-of-hospital emer-
ergency medical care, including an emergency medical technician or paramedic; or

“(III) is a member of a qualified volunteer emergency response organization who provides firefighting services or emergency medical services; and

“(ii) the term ‘qualified volunteer emergency response organization’ means any volunteer organization that—

“(I) is organized and operated to provide firefighting or emergency medical services for persons in the State or political subdivision, as the case may be; and

“(II) is required (by written agreement) by the State or political subdivision to furnish firefighting or emergency medical services in such State or political subdivision.”

SEC. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE.

The amendment made by section 3 of this Act shall apply with respect to Federal Pell Grants awarded for academic year 2013–2014, and each succeeding academic year.