

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. RES. 19

Expressing the sense of the Senate that Congress should increase the maximum individual Federal Pell Grant award to \$9,000 by 2010.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 14, 2003

Mr. FEINGOLD (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, and Mr. KENNEDY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the Senate that Congress should increase the maximum individual Federal Pell Grant award to \$9,000 by 2010.

Whereas public investment in higher education yields a return of several dollars for each dollar invested;

Whereas higher education promotes economic opportunity and recipients of bachelor's degrees earn an average 75 percent per year more than those with high school diplomas and are also half as likely to be unemployed;

Whereas access to a college education has become a hallmark of American society, and is vital to upholding our belief in equality of opportunity;

Whereas for a generation, the Federal Pell Grant has served as an established and effective means of providing access to higher education;

Whereas over the past decade, the Federal Pell Grant has decreased by 20 percent in value and is now worth only 70 percent of what a Federal Pell Grant was worth in 1975;

Whereas grant aid as a portion of student aid has fallen significantly in the past 5 years;

Whereas in the past, grant aid constituted 55 percent of total aid awarded to college students and loans constituted just over 40 percent, but now grant aid constitutes 40 percent of total aid awarded and loans constitute nearly 60 percent;

Whereas the percentage of freshman attending public and private 4-year institutions of higher education from families with income below the national medium has fallen since 1981; and

Whereas in 2001, eligible Federal Pell Grant applicants grew by 8.3 percent in comparison with the projected growth rate of 2.5 percent, representing an increase in low-income students who now have access to college and causing a shortfall in funding for the Federal Pell Grant program: Now, therefore, be it

- 1 *Resolved*, That it is the sense of the Senate that Con-
- 2 gress should increase the maximum individual Federal
- 3 Pell Grant award to \$9,000 by fiscal year 2010.

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