

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 132

To express the sense of the House of Representatives that the maximum Pell Grant should be increased to \$5,800.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 1, 2005

Mr. WU submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

RESOLUTION

To express the sense of the House of Representatives that the maximum Pell Grant should be increased to \$5,800.

1 *Resolved,*

2 **SECTION 1. INCREASE IN MAXIMUM PELL GRANT.**

3 (a) FINDINGS.—The House of Representatives makes
4 the following findings:

5 (1) A college education has become increasingly
6 important, not just to the individual beneficiary, but
7 to the nation as a whole. The growth and continued
8 expansion of the nation's economy is heavily depend-
9 ent on an educated and highly skilled workforce.

1 (2) The opportunity to gain a college education
2 also is important to the nation as a means to help
3 advance the American ideals of progress and equal-
4 ity.

5 (3) The Federal Government plays an invaluable
6 role in making student financial aid available to
7 ensure that qualified students are able to attend col-
8 lege, regardless of their financial means. Since the
9 inception of the Pell Grant program in 1973, nearly
10 80,000,000 grants have helped low- and middle-in-
11 come students go to college, enrich their lives, and
12 become productive members of society.

13 (4) Nationwide, almost 65 percent of high
14 school graduates continue on to higher education.
15 This degree of college participation would not exist
16 without the Federal investment in student aid, espe-
17 cially the Pell Grant program. Nearly 25 percent of
18 all undergraduate students receive some amount of
19 Pell Grant funding.

20 (5) In the next 10 years, the number of under-
21 graduate students enrolled in the nation's colleges
22 and universities will increase by 11 percent to more
23 than 11,000,000 students. Many of these students
24 will be the first in their families to attend college.
25 One in 5 of these students will be from families with

1 incomes below the poverty level. The continued in-
2 vestment in the Pell Grant program is essential if
3 college is to remain an achievable part of the Amer-
4 ican dream.

5 (6) Increasing the maximum Pell Grant to
6 \$5,800 would result in a \$1,800 increase in the
7 maximum grant award.

8 (7) Because Pell Grant recipients are more like-
9 ly to graduate with student loan debt and to amass
10 more debt than other student borrowers, increasing
11 the maximum Pell Grant to \$5,800 will help remedy
12 this disparity.

13 (b) SENSE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.—
14 It is the sense of the House of Representatives that the
15 maximum Pell Grant should be increased to \$5,800.

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