



STATEMENT OF LAUREN ASHER
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House Vote Puts Pell Grants in Peril

Nearly nine million students rely on federal Pell Grants to help pay for college, but today's House vote puts those grants in peril. The House voted to pass [Resolution 38](#), which directs the Chairman of the House Budget Committee to cut non-security discretionary spending to 2008 levels or less.

Cutting Pell Grant funding to 2008 levels would lower the maximum grant from \$5,550 today to \$4,000 or even less this fall. Such a cut is unprecedented in the program's nearly 40-year history. Hundreds of thousands of students would lose their grants entirely and millions more would see their grants cut dramatically. For many students, these cuts would make it impossible to start or stay in school.

Pell grants are one of the cornerstones of our student aid system, and a cut to these crucial grants could hardly come at a worse time, with millions of Americans out of work or struggling to make ends meet. College affordability is crucial to workforce development, and Pell Grants help millions of Americans get the education and training they need to help strengthen our economy.

Maintaining funding for Pell Grants has never been more important. We urge Congress in the strongest possible terms to fully fund Pell Grants and preserve this lifeline to opportunity and economic prosperity.

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