



STATEMENT OF LAUREN ASHER
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Statement on Trump Administration Proposals to Raid \$5.2 Billion from Pell Grants in FY2017 and 2018

“After proposing to raid nearly \$4 billion dollars from [Pell Grants](#) in its FY2018 Budget, the Trump Administration has just proposed additional deep funding cuts for Pell Grants in the waning months of the current fiscal year. The Administration’s proposed raid on Pell Grant funding now totals \$5.2 billion, the equivalent of the average award for over 1.4 million (one in five) students receiving Pell Grants. This destructive move will make it much harder to make [critical program improvements](#), including restoring student access to grants year round and increasing the maximum grant, which currently covers the lowest share of college costs in over forty years. After fiscal year 2017, the maximum grant will no longer be tied to inflation and will further decline in value each year without Congressional action.

“The President’s proposed cuts, combined with draconian cuts already [laid out by House Republicans](#), set Pell Grants up for deep cuts to award levels and/or the complete elimination of grants for some students, posing a serious threat to the program as we know it. Pell Grants are the federal government’s most effective investment in keeping higher education accessible for all Americans. The President and Congress should be seizing their unique opportunity to invest existing Pell funding in students struggling to afford college, not slashing Pell Grant funding to push college even further out of reach and students deeper into debt.”

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An independent, nonprofit organization, The Institute for College Access & Success (TICAS) works to make higher education more available and affordable for people of all backgrounds. Our Project on Student Debt works to increase public understanding of rising student debt and the implications for our families, economy, and society. For more information see www.ticas.org or follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).