



STATEMENT OF JESSICA THOMPSON
Policy and Research Director
The Institute for College Access & Success (TICAS)

CONTACTS: [Shannon Serrato](#), 510-318-7915
[Lisa Lederer](#), 202-371-1999

July 19, 2017

Amidst Outcry, House Appropriators Approve \$3.3 Billion Cut to Pell Grants, Freeze Grant Amounts

“Today, the House Appropriations Committee approved the FY2018 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education (LHHS) [appropriations bill](#) that cuts \$3.3 billion from Pell Grants, raiding funds needed to help millions of low- and moderate-income students attend and complete college. The bill also freezes Pell Grant award amounts for the first time in six years -- a move that will cause the [value](#) of the maximum grant to sink to a new historic low. Pell Grants are our nation’s most effective investment for ensuring equitable access to higher education, and are an integral part of growing a robust workforce. Rather than increasing grant sizes to help millions of Americans struggling to get ahead in today’s economy, this bill adds insult to injury by piling on to the [\\$1.3 billion cut in May](#) for a *\$4.6 billion total cut to Pell Grants*.

“Yesterday, we joined [more than 40 groups](#) representing students, consumers, workers, colleges, financial aid administrators, college access professionals, scholarship providers, and others to urge the Committee to reject these harmful cuts that undermine Pell Grants.

“Today, [122 Members of Congress](#) also called on the Committee to protect Pell Grants, saying that ‘the LHHS appropriations bill should not balance other funding needs on the backs of low-income college students.’ We could not agree more, and urge the full House of Representatives to reject any cuts to Pell Grants.”

###

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](#).