



March 25, 2021

Senator Chris Murphy
136 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Senator Richard Blumenthal
706 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Representative Joe Courtney
2449 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Representative Rosa DeLauro
2413 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Representative Jahana Hayes
1415 Longworth HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

Representative Jim Himes
2137 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Representative John Larson
1501 Longworth HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Members of Connecticut’s Congressional Delegation,

On behalf of the Connecticut Presidents’ Council – the Presidents’ of Connecticut’s public and private non-profit institutions of higher education – we urge you to bring an affordable, high-quality college education within reach for all students in our state by doubling the maximum Pell Grant. This long overdue investment will drive economic recovery, help address racial and economic inequities in college completion rates and increase overall educational attainment.

The Pell Grant program is the nation’s foundational investment in higher education. **In Connecticut, Pell Grants help nearly 80,000 low- and moderate-income students attend and complete college annually.** Students attending every institution on this letter from every city in our state rely on the Pell Grant program to build their future.

Pell Grants are especially critical for students of color, with nearly 60 percent of Black students, half of American Indian or Alaska Native students, and nearly half of Latinx students receiving a Pell Grant each year.

However, the share of college costs covered by the grant is at an all-time low. At its peak, the maximum grant covered three-quarters of the cost of attending a four-year public college. Now, it covers less than one-third of that cost.

Students from low- and moderate-income families are in critical need of additional grant aid to pay for college, especially as the pandemic will have rippling effects on students and their families ability to access college for years to come. Doubling the maximum Pell Grant — and permanently indexing the grant to inflation to ensure its value doesn't diminish over time — will boost college enrollment, improve graduation rates, and honor the history and value of these grants as the keystone federal investment in college affordability.

The higher education sector in Connecticut stands ready to assist you in this collective effort to ensure this program can continue to transform the lives of the students we serve.

Sincerely,



President Marc Camille
Albertus Magnus College



President Tracy Espy
Mitchell College



President Katherine Bergeron
Connecticut College



President Judy Olian
Quinnipiac University



Interim President Jane Gates
Connecticut State Colleges & Universities



President John J. Petillo
Sacred Heart University



President Mark Nemeč
Fairfield University



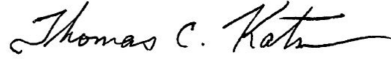
President Joanne Berger-Sweeney
Trinity College



President Mark Scheinberg
Goodwin University



Interim President Stephen Healey
University of Bridgeport



President Thomas Katsouleas
University of Connecticut



President Gregory S. Woodward
University of Hartford



President Steven Kaplan
University of New Haven



President Rhona Free
University of Saint Joseph



President Michael S. Roth
Wesleyan University



President Peter Salovey
Yale University