

TALKING POINTS: FULLY FUND THE PELL GRANT (2026)

- We **appreciate your longstanding support for Pell** and specifically, the \$10.5 billion provided last year to address the funding shortfall. *If applicable:*
 - **Thank you for signing the recent letter** of support circulated by Rep. Tom Kean (R-NJ): <https://shorturl.at/d3KyU>.
 - **Thank you for signing the recent letter** of support led by Senators Mazie Hirono (D-HI) and Jack Reed (D-RI): <https://shorturl.at/X9Ozf>.
- Due to the success of the bi-partisan FAFSA Simplification Act, more funding is needed to meet the demands of the program. **We urge you to meet and build on the President's FY27 budget request, which fully funds Pell at its current maximum of \$7,395.**
 - We're also requesting a **modest \$200 increase to keep up with inflation.**
 - **IF ASKED how to pay for the shortfall:**
 - *The Office of Federal Student Aid has implemented fraud detection measures that have saved \$1 billion already and will continue to save more money in the future. These savings should be used to fund Pell.*
 - *We will confer with NCAN staff and loop back with you as we generate additional ideas for savings.*
- As you know, the **Pell Grant is a critical driver of economic growth.** It also **improves persistence and completion.** If Pell had kept pace with inflation since 2023:
 - **[Your state] would have gained an additional \$XXM.**
 - **15,000 more students would have completed a degree or credential.**
- The cost of living, such as housing, food, and transportation, has risen significantly in recent years. **An increase to the maximum Pell Grant will help restore the purchasing power of the award, and support students facing affordability challenges.**
- Thank you for supporting students!