



★ FROM THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT ★

February 3, 2011

U.S. Congress
Washington D.C., 20515/20510

Dear Member of Congress,

On behalf of the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (NASFAA), I write to urge you to provide sufficient Pell Grant funding to ensure the maximum award is not reduced in the 2011-12 academic year. NASFAA represents more than 18,000 financial aid professionals who serve 16 million students each year at 2,800 colleges and universities throughout the country. Beginning this week, our members will begin offering student financial aid packages to students and parents based on Pell Grant Payment schedules that assume a maximum Pell Grant of \$5,550. As you consider additional FY 2011 budget bills, it is vital that the maximum Pell Grant for the 2011-12 year is not reduced.

The current continuing resolution (P.L. 111-322) provides sufficient Pell Grant program funding to ensure a \$5,550 maximum grant level for the 2011-12 academic year. This week, as required by law, the U.S. Department of Education released the 2011-12 Pell Grant payment schedules—a guide that schools use to determine Pell Grant awards for students. Schools have begun packaging and offering student aid funds for the 2011-12 year using the recently published payment schedules. By March 4 – when the CR is scheduled to end—many students will have already received their award packages and will be making their postsecondary plans accordingly. Any changes to Pell funding at this point could disrupt, delay, or halt low-income students and families' higher education aspirations. To prevent this, Congress must provide sufficient funding to maintain the \$5,550 maximum Pell Grant award for the remainder of the 2011 fiscal year.

The Pell Grant program continues to be the cornerstone of the federal student aid programs and millions of students will be relying on Congress to ensure its funding. Thank you for your continued support of the Pell Grant program and all you do for students and families.

Sincerely,

Justin Draeger
President