

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

May 17, 2010

The Honorable David Obey  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and  
Human Services, and Education  
House Appropriations Committee  
2358 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Todd Tiahrt  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and  
Human Services, and Education  
House Appropriations Committee  
2441 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Obey and Ranking Member Tiahrt:

We are writing to ask you to provide the supplemental funds needed to eliminate the Pell Grant funding gap. This critical program is the primary financial aid program for college students, and the Department of Education estimates that 8.7 million students will rely on Pell Grants to afford college in the next year.

The economic downturn resulted in a greater number of students attending college in order to acquire the skills needed to compete in a difficult economy. With growing numbers of students enrolling, and those students having greater financial need than in years past, demand for Pell grants has surged. Pell Grant applications are increasing by nearly twenty percent annually, compared to the roughly three percent annual increases seen in better economic times. This increased demand has resulted in the funding gap we are currently experiencing.

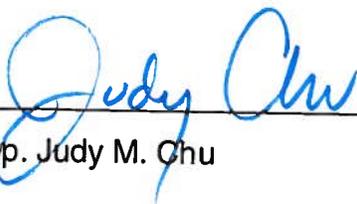
While recent reconciliation legislation passed by this Congress retired a significant portion of the Pell shortfall, there remains an accumulated funding gap of \$5.5 billion. Without supplemental appropriations for FY 2011 we are concerned that the FY 2011 allocations for Pell will negatively affect other important programs in the Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Appropriations bill. If \$5.5 billion were taken from

the Pell Grant program funding directly, such a cut would reduce the Pell Grant maximum award, immediately after Congress promised students a \$5,550 award level in FY2010. In such a tight budget year, a drastic cut in funding for other programs in order to preserve Pell is a poor choice.

A college degree is increasingly important in the modern economy and Pell Grants are vital to helping millions of deserving students achieve that goal. A skilled and well-trained workforce is necessary for the success of America's economy. We ask you to support America's students and economy and provide the crucial funding needed to retire the Pell Grant funding gap.

Thank you for your support of this valuable program and your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,



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Rep. Judy M. Chu



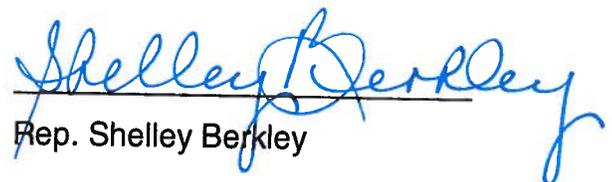
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Rep. Joe Baca



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Rep. Tammy Baldwin



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Rep. Shelley Berkley



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Rep. Howard Berman



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Rep. Tim Bishop



Rep. Leonard Boswell



Rep. Robert Brady



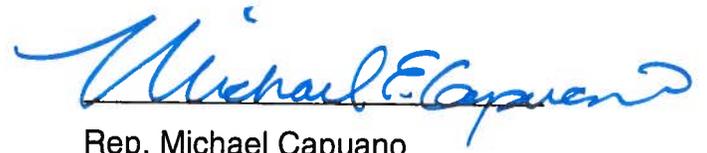
Rep. Bruce Braley



Rep. Corrine Brown



Rep. Lois Capps



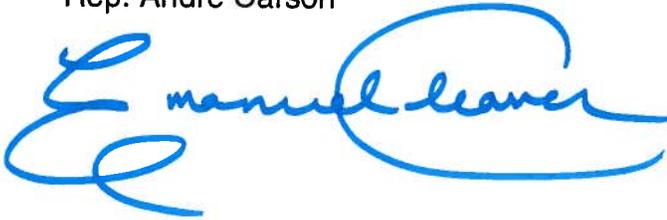
Rep. Michael Capuano



Rep. André Carson



Rep. Yvette Clarke



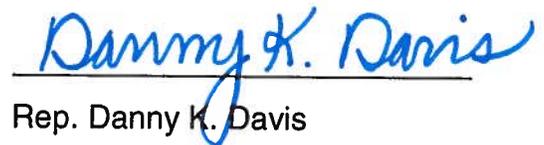
Rep. Emanuel Cleaver



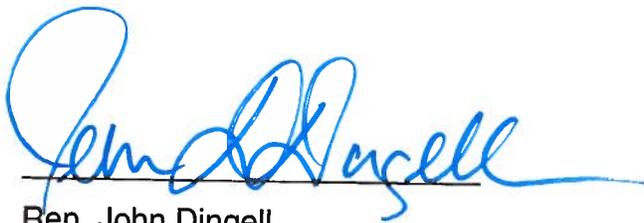
Rep. John Conyers, Jr.



Rep. Joe Courtney



Rep. Danny K. Davis



Rep. John Dingell



Rep. Bob Filner



Rep. John Garamendi



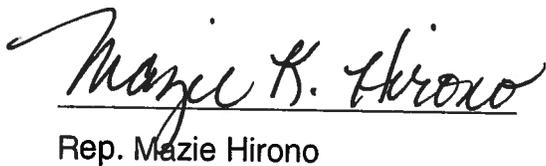
Rep. Alan Grayson



Rep. Raul Grijalva



Rep. Ruben Hinojosa



Rep. Mazie Hirono



Rep. Steve Kagen



Rep. Mary Jo Kilroy



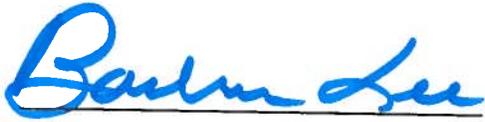
Rep. Dennis Kucinich



Rep. Jim Langevin



Rep. Rick Larsen



Rep. Barbara Lee



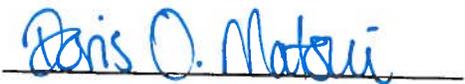
Rep. David Loebsack



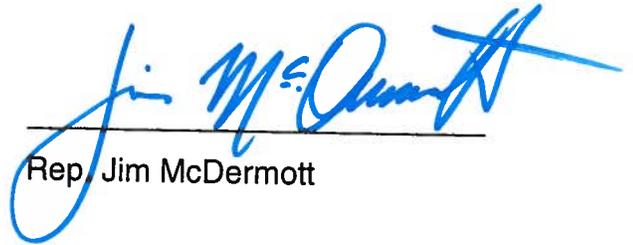
Rep. Zoe Lofgren



Rep. Dan Maffei



Rep. Doris Matsui



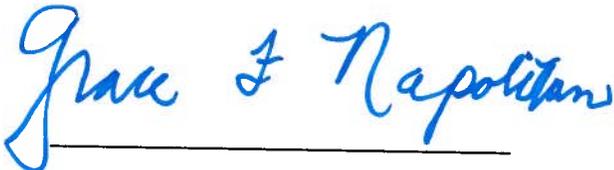
Rep. Jim McDermott



Rep. Gwen Moore



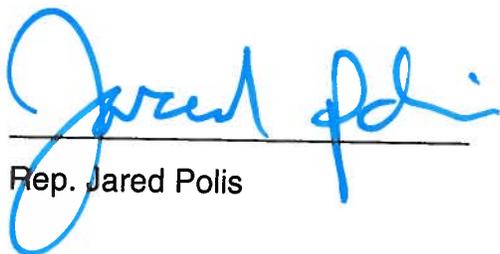
Rep. Jerrold Nadler



Rep. Grace Napolitano



Rep. Pedro Pierluisi



Rep. Jared Polis



Rep. David Price

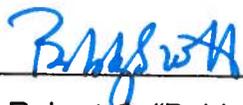
  
Rep. Charles Rangel

  
Rep. Laura Richardson

  
Rep. Steve Rothman

  
Rep. Gregorio "Kilili" Sablan

  
Rep. Linda Sánchez

  
Rep. Robert C. "Bobby" Scott

  
Rep. Carol Shea-Porter

  
Rep. Brad Sherman

  
Rep. Albio Sires

  
Rep. Fortney "Pete" Stark

  
Rep. Betty Sutton

  
Rep. Paul Tonko



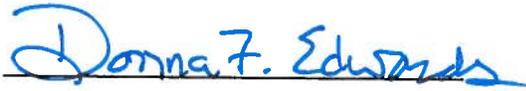
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Rep. Chris Van Hollen



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Rep. David Wu



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Rep. Donna F. Edwards



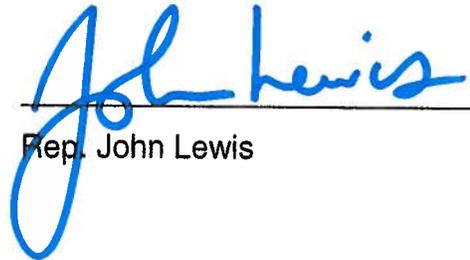
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Rep. Edolphus Towns



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Rep. Henry Cuellar



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Rep. John Lewis



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Rep. Diane Watson

## **Associations and Universities that Support Supplemental Funding for Pell Grants**

### *Associations:*

American Association of Colleges for  
Teacher Education

American Association of Community  
Colleges

American Association of State Colleges and  
Universities

American Indian Higher Education  
Consortium

Association of American Universities

Association of Community College Trustees

American Council on Education

Association of Jesuit Colleges and  
Universities

Association of Public and Land-grant  
Universities

Coalition of Higher Education Assistance  
Organizations

College Parents of America

Committee for Education Funding

National Association of Independent Colleges  
and Universities

National Association of Student Financial Aid  
Administrators

National Association of Student State Grant  
and Aid Programs

Student Aid Alliance

UNCF

United States Student Association

### *Universities:*

Alabama A&M University

Binghamton University-State University of  
New York

California State University

Eastern Illinois University

Iowa State University

Kentucky State University

Tennessee State University

University of California

University of Washington

University of Wisconsin-Parkside

University of Wisconsin-Whitewater