

Dear Honorable Members of the Missouri Congressional Delegation,

Missouri's independent college sector proudly serves a broad population of students, including many from families whose incomes are at or below the federal poverty level and rely on federal educational benefits to achieve their dream of a college education. I am writing today on behalf of these Missouri students and their families to urge your support for the proposal to double the Pell Grant maximum and to ensure that the increase is permanent.

The Independent Colleges and Universities of Missouri (ICUM) is the statewide association representing Missouri's independent, nonprofit institutions of higher education. Our members strongly endorse the doubling of the maximum Pell Grant to help ensure that thousands of low-income and first-generation students would be able to attend the college or university of their choice and graduate with little to no student debt. This would represent a critical investment in Missouri's citizens that would give them and our state's economy a bright future.

The federal Pell Grant is a remarkably effective public-private partnership, and one that produces substantial public benefits. Pell Grants, coupled with state need-based aid, and the significant funds provided by Missouri's private, non-profit institutions, have put higher education within reach for hundreds of thousands of Missourians who have used their college degrees to build their families, their communities and our state.

As Congress begins to consider non-COVID legislation, including proposals to ensure equitable access to higher education for all Americans, we encourage you to support doubling the maximum Pell Grant and making the increase permanent by entitlement. This investment in our collective futures would be nothing short of transformational for financially deserving students of working Missouri families. ICUM stands ready to assist you in this effort.

Respectfully,



Bill Gamble  
Executive Director



Independent Colleges and  
Universities of Missouri  
(573) 635-9160