

March 26, 2021

The Honorable Todd Young
United States Senate

The Honorable Mike Braun
United States Senate

The Honorable Frank Mrvan
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Jackie Walorski
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Jim Banks
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Jim Baird
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Victoria Spartz
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Greg Pence
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable André Carson
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Trey Hollingsworth
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Larry Bucshon
United States House of Representatives

Greetings Senators and Representatives,

We are very grateful for the time to meet you and your staff in our February calls. Our letter today is to follow up on an important conversation: Pell Grants.

On behalf of the 30 independent colleges in Indiana, we write to ask you to support the proposal to double the Pell Grant. Doubling the Pell Grant is one of the most effective steps Congress could take to make college education more affordable for a larger number of needy and first-generation Indiana students.

Doubling the Pell Grant would greatly strengthen one of the three main pillars of financial aid for needy Indiana college students. The first, and by far the largest pillar, is the direct financial aid provided by our institutions themselves. Each year, Indiana's private, non-profit colleges and universities provide more than \$1 billion in non-loan, non-government, non-work-study financial aid to our students. That aid is combined with over \$90 million in state financial aid through the Indiana state grant programs. The federal Pell Grant then provides nearly \$90 million each year to just over 20,000 students who attend our institutions.

On those February calls, many of you asked how we assist middle-income students and their families. Here is how: By doubling the Pell Grant, our colleges can apply more of their institutional dollars toward scholarships for those families not rich enough to pay outright and not needy enough to qualify for additional state or federal aid. We will be able to reduce the gap in affordability from our own funds.

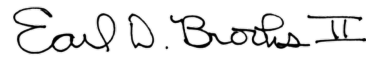
June 23, 2022, will mark the 50th anniversary of the Pell Grant program. Since its inception, the Pell Grant, in concert with the Indiana state student aid, and Indiana's private, non-profit colleges and universities, has put higher education within the reach of hundreds of thousands of Hoosiers who have used their college degrees to build their families, their communities, and our state.

We urge your support of the proposal to double the Pell Grant. Thank you very much for your continued service to Indiana.

Sincerely,



Dr. David W. Wantz
President & CEO
Independent Colleges of Indiana



Dr. Earl D. Brooks
President, Trine University
Board Chair, Independent Colleges of
Indiana