

Amherst College  
Anna Maria College  
Assumption University  
Babson College  
Bard College at Simon's Rock  
Bay Path University  
Becker College  
Ben Franklin Institute of Technology  
Bentley University  
Berklee College of Music  
Boston Architectural College  
Boston Baptist College  
Boston College  
Boston Graduate School of  
Psychoanalysis  
Boston University  
Brandeis University  
Cambridge College  
Clark University  
College of the Holy Cross  
Curry College  
Dean College  
Eastern Nazarene College  
Elms College  
Emerson College  
Emmanuel College  
Endicott College  
Fisher College  
Gordon College  
Hampshire College  
Harvard University  
Labouré College of Healthcare  
Lasell University  
Lesley University  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
MCPHS University  
Merrimack College  
MGH Institute of Health Professions  
Montserrat College of Art  
Mount Holyoke College  
New England College of Optometry  
New England Conservatory of Music  
Nichols College  
Northeastern University  
Olin College  
Pine Manor College  
Regis College  
Simmons University  
Smith College  
Springfield College  
Stonehill College  
Suffolk University  
Thomas Aquinas College  
Tufts University  
Urban College of Boston  
Wellesley College  
Wentworth Institute of Technology  
Western New England University  
Wheaton College  
William James College  
Williams College  
Worcester Polytechnic Institute

March 19, 2021

Massachusetts Senate Delegation  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Massachusetts House Delegation  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Honorable Members of the Massachusetts Congressional Delegation:

Thank you for your continued efforts on behalf of colleges and universities across the Commonwealth. Your unyielding support for these institutions – private and public – and their students, faculty and staff, has made a profound difference on each campus and in their host communities. The American Rescue Plan will help immensely as colleges and universities continue to provide a safe environment to learn and work and to offer high-quality learning experiences for their students as our nation moves closer to end the pandemic through ongoing vaccination efforts.

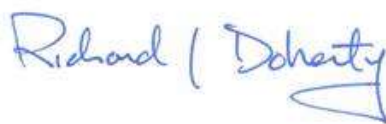
As Congress begins to consider non-COVID legislation, including proposals to ensure equitable access to higher education for all Americans, we encourage you to support President Biden's plan to double the Pell Grant maximum and make the increase permanent by converting it to an entitlement. Such a step would be nothing short of transformational for the more than 110,000 Pell Grant recipients attending a Massachusetts college or university.

The act of doubling the maximum Pell Grant would ensure that thousands of low-income and first-generation students annually would be able to attend the college or university of their choice and graduate with little to no student debt. As we approach the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Pell Grant Program, which was developed under the leadership of Senator Claiborne Pell of Rhode Island, it is an appropriate time to celebrate the legacy of this impactful program and ensure that it remains a lifeline to educational opportunity for the next generation of students.

At a time of continued economic and financial uncertainty, particularly for those communities that have been disproportionately impacted by COVID-19, no investment will have a more far-reaching and meaningful return than additional funding for educational opportunities. Doubling the Pell Grant will increase college participation rates, improve graduation rates and allow more students to graduate with little to no student debt. An investment in the Pell Grant program is nothing less than an investment in our collective future.

We encourage you to support President Biden's efforts to ensure that the federal investment in college affordability truly makes higher education a reality for Massachusetts' low-income and first-generation college students and their families. We stand ready to assist you in this effort.

Sincerely yours,



Richard Doherty, President