

Care for elderly parents/grandparents

Dear [Senator/Representative Last Name],

I am an honor student at [fill in the name of your college here]—and I am also a caregiver for my elderly grandparents. I'm writing to ask you to protect students like me from the devastating impact of the reconciliation proposal.

Most semesters, I can only take two classes. That's 6-7.5 credit hours—sometimes less—because I also care for my family and work part-time to help with expenses. Students taking 12 or even 14 credit hours would no longer receive the full award—they would only receive 80% of what they previously qualified for. I'm not making excuses. I'm doing everything I can to earn a degree. And the Pell Grant is the only reason I've been able to stay in school.

But this new bill would eliminate Pell Grants for students like me—just because we're not enrolled in enough classes. Two classes used to count for financial aid. Now, under this bill, they wouldn't count at all.

Let me be clear: this doesn't just reduce my aid—it completely takes it away.

This bill doesn't just hit me. It hits the majority of community college students, because nearly all of us attend part-time. Many of us are parents, caregivers, or working long hours while trying to better our futures. We are not asking for special treatment. We're asking not to be punished for doing the best we can.

And now there's talk of taxing the Pell Grant, too—as if it's extra income. It's not. That money goes straight to tuition, books, and transportation. Taking it away—or taxing it—won't motivate us to work harder. It will push us out of college entirely.

I am not failing. I make straight A's. Your policies are failing me—and students like me.

Last year, changes to Pell gave me hope. They told students like me, "You belong here." But this new bill closes the door we just opened.

Please don't turn your back on students who are doing everything right—just not all at once.

Sincerely,