

Single Parent

Dear [Senator/Representative Last Name],

I am an honor student at [fill in the name of your college here], and I am also a single parent. I'm writing to ask you to protect students like me from the devastating impact of the changes proposed to the Pell Grant in the reconciliation bill.

I go to school part-time, take care of my child, and work to support us. Most semesters, I can manage two classes—three if I'm lucky. It's not a matter of motivation. It's a matter of time, childcare, and survival.

The Pell Grant has made college possible for me. But under this bill, students like me—students taking fewer than 7.5 credit hours—would lose access to Pell entirely. And even those taking 12 to 14 credit hours would no longer qualify for the full award—they would only receive 80% of what they previously qualified for. That isn't a reduction—it's a denial of opportunity.

The reality is that many single parents simply cannot attend college full-time. We're not failing—we're holding our families together while doing everything we can to get ahead. I make straight A's. I'm doing the work. But these policy changes punish me for my circumstances.

And now, there's a proposal to tax the Pell Grant on top of cutting it. That grant doesn't sit in my bank account—it goes straight to tuition, books, and gas. Taxing it means I'll have to pay money I don't have, on aid I never kept. How is that fair?

Last year, improvements to Pell gave me a path forward. This bill tears that path away. For families like mine, this isn't just about financial aid—it's about whether we ever get the chance to join the middle class.

Please don't let that door close on us. Stand with students who are doing everything right—just not all at once.

Sincerely,