

Student working full-time

Dear [Senator/Representative Last Name],

I am an honor student at [fill in the name of your college here], and I work full-time. I'm writing to urge you to protect the Pell Grant from the harmful changes proposed in the reconciliation bill.

I work 40 hours a week—not because I want to delay college, but because I have to support myself. I take two or three classes each semester, and I work hard to maintain my GPA. I've found a way to balance work and school, and I'm proud of what I've accomplished. But now, those of us attending part-time are being told we don't deserve full support. Worse—some of us won't get any support at all.

Under this bill, students taking fewer than 7.5 credit hours will lose Pell Grant eligibility entirely. That means if I take two classes while working full-time, I get nothing. 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. These are not just policy tweaks—they are punishments for students trying to survive and stay enrolled.

And now there's a proposal to tax the Pell Grant. That aid goes straight to tuition, textbooks, and gas to get to class. Taxing it as if it is income just takes more from those who already have the least.

I want to be very clear and communicate that financial aid should not only go to students who don't work. That's not the world we live in. Most community college students do work. We are the ones keeping businesses running, supporting families, and contributing to the economy while we go to school. Why are we being penalized for doing exactly what society says we should—work hard, stay enrolled, and aim higher?

I am not failing. I make straight A's. I've built my life around my education. Your policies are failing students like me.

Please oppose these changes. Keep the Pell Grant strong, flexible, and fair—because working students deserve a future too.

Sincerely,