

## Working part-time with family responsibilities

Dear [Senator/Representative Last Name],

I am an honor student at [fill in the name of your college here], I work part-time, help care for my family, and go to college so I can build a better future. I'm writing because the proposed changes to the Pell Grant program in the reconciliation bill would make that future harder—maybe impossible—to reach.

Most semesters, I take two or three classes. I work 20–30 hours a week, and I help care for younger siblings and elderly relatives while my parents work. I've carefully balanced it all—school, work, family—because I want to succeed, and I have. I earn top grades. I show up. I don't cut corners.

But this bill would either greatly reduce or take away my Pell Grant entirely. That's not a reduction—it's total elimination. It would also cut the full award for students taking 12 to 14 credit hours—they would only receive 80% of what they previously qualified for, even though many of us can't take 15 credit hours due to family or work obligations. What message does that send?

And now there's talk of taxing the Pell Grant as if it's extra income. That money doesn't go toward anything except tuition, books, and transportation. Taxing it would just take more away from students who already have so little.

This bill hits students like me the hardest—students with real responsibilities. We aren't slacking. We are stretched. We're not failing. We're doing everything we can. And your policies are failing us.

Please don't close the door to education for people like me—people who are working, caring for others, and trying to build something better.

Sincerely,