

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. CON. RES. 88

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Urging the Congress and the President to increase funding for the Pell Grant Program and existing Campus-Based Aid Programs.

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Whereas the Basic Educational Opportunity Grant Program, now known as the Pell Grant Program in honor of Senator Claiborne Pell of Rhode Island, was first authorized in the 1972 amendments to the Higher Education Act of 1965;

Whereas the Pell Grant Program has become the largest need-based Federal higher education scholarship program

and is considered the foundation for all Federal student aid;

Whereas the purpose of the program is to assist students from low income families who would not otherwise be financially able to attend a postsecondary institution by providing grants to students to be used to pay the costs of attending the postsecondary institution of their choice;

Whereas in the late 1970's, the Pell Grant covered seventy-five percent of the average cost of attending a public four-year college; by the late 1990's, it only covered thirty-six percent of the cost of attending a public four-year college;

Whereas families across the country are concerned about the rising cost of a college education, and for children from low income families, the cost of college continues to be an overwhelming factor in their decision to forego a college education;

Whereas children from high income families are almost twice as likely to enroll in college as children from low income families;

Whereas higher education promotes economic opportunity for individuals and economic competitiveness for our Nation;

Whereas the Pell Grant and Campus-Based Aid Programs target aid to low income students as effectively as any programs administered by the Federal government; and

Whereas student borrowing to finance a postsecondary education has increased to an average indebtedness of \$9,700, and therefore increased grant aid is more important than ever: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
2 *concurring)*, That the Congress and the President, should,
3 working within the constraints of the balanced budget
4 agreement, make student scholarship aid the highest pri-
5 ority for higher education funding by increasing the max-
6 imum Pell Grant awarded to low income students by \$400
7 and increasing other existing campus-based aid programs
8 that serve low-income students prior to authorizing or ap-
9 propriating funds for any new education initiative.

Passed the House of Representatives May 4, 1999.

Attest:

Clerk.