

108TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. RES. 144

To express the sense of the House of Representatives that the maximum Pell Grant should be increased to \$5,800.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 13, 2003

Mr. WU submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

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# RESOLUTION

To express the sense of the House of Representatives that the maximum Pell Grant should be increased to \$5,800.

1       *Resolved,*

2       **SECTION 1. INCREASE IN MAXIMUM PELL GRANT.**

3       (a) FINDINGS.—The House of Representatives makes  
4 the following findings:

5               (1) A college education has become increasingly  
6 important, not just to the individual beneficiary, but  
7 to the nation as a whole. The growth and continued  
8 expansion of the nation's economy is heavily depend-  
9 ent on an educated and highly skilled workforce.

1           (2) The opportunity to gain a college education  
2 also is important to the nation as a means to help  
3 advance the American ideals of progress and equal-  
4 ity.

5           (3) The Federal Government plays an invaluable  
6 role in making student financial aid available to  
7 ensure that qualified students are able to attend college,  
8 regardless of their financial means. Since the  
9 inception of the Pell Grant program in 1973, nearly  
10 80,000,000 grants have helped low- and middle-income  
11 students go to college, enrich their lives, and  
12 become productive members of society.

13           (4) Nationwide, almost 65 percent of high  
14 school graduates continue on to higher education.  
15 This degree of college participation would not exist  
16 without the Federal investment in student aid, especially  
17 the Pell Grant program. Nearly 25 percent of  
18 all undergraduate students receive some amount of  
19 Pell Grant funding.

20           (5) In the next 10 years, the number of undergraduate  
21 students enrolled in the nation's colleges  
22 and universities will increase by 11 percent to more  
23 than 11,000,000 students. Many of these students  
24 will be the first in their families to attend college.  
25 One in 5 of these students will be from families with

1 incomes below the poverty level. The continued in-  
2 vestment in the Pell Grant program is essential if  
3 college is to remain an achievable part of the Amer-  
4 ican dream.

5 (6) Increasing the maximum Pell Grant to  
6 \$5,800 would result in a \$1,800 increase in the  
7 maximum grant award.

8 (7) Because Pell Grant recipients are more like-  
9 ly to graduate with student loan debt and to amass  
10 more debt than other student borrowers, increasing  
11 the maximum Pell Grant to \$5,800 will help remedy  
12 this disparity.

13 (b) SENSE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.—  
14 It is the sense of the House of Representatives that the  
15 maximum Pell Grant should be increased to \$5,800.

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