

Pell Grant Increase Signed Into Law for First Time Since 2003 (Included in CR)

After Democrats Rep. David Obey, Chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, and Sen. Robert Byrd, Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, included boosting the Pell Grant scholarship by \$260 to a maximum award of \$4,310 in the budget resolution, President Bush signed the measure into law in February. This was the first increase to be signed into law since 2003, when it was raised by \$50.

Promoting Pell Grant Fairness/Tuition Sensitivity

The House approved legislation on February 27 that would repeal a rule that unfairly reduces Pell Grant scholarship aid for thousands of low-income college students who attend low-cost colleges and universities. The Pell Grant Equity Act (H.R. 990), introduced by Reps. George Miller and Howard “Buck” McKeon, will provide a one-year fix in order to offer affected students immediate relief, benefiting approximately 96,000 students in the 2007-2008 academic year – or an average Pell Grant scholarship increase of \$108 per student. The fix will be made permanent when the Education and Labor Committee reauthorizes the Higher Education Act.