



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
Driven to Discover®
Crookston Duluth Morris Rochester Twin Cities



MINNESOTA STATE

July 7, 2021

The Honorable Angie Craig
The Honorable Tom Emmer
The Honorable Jim Hagedorn
The Honorable Amy Klobuchar
The Honorable Betty McCollum

The Honorable Ilhan Omar
The Honorable Michelle Fischbach
The Honorable Dean Phillips
The Honorable Tina Smith
The Honorable Pete Stauber

Dear Members of the Minnesota Congressional Delegation,

Thank you for your continued support of colleges and universities across Minnesota. Your support during the course of the pandemic has made a profound difference for our students, our campuses, and the communities where we are located.

As Congress looks ahead to the appropriation process, we strongly encourage you to support efforts in Congress to double the Pell Grant maximum and make the increase permanent by converting it to an entitlement. For 50 years, the Pell Grant has helped ensure equitable access to higher education in Minnesota and throughout the nation, but its current funding level is not adequate to meet the needs of lower-income students today.

Doubling the grant would be transformational for the 114,682 Pell Grant recipients attending a college or university in Minnesota. Increasing Pell grants will increase college enrollment and improve college completion rates. Doubling the Pell Grant would ensure that our low-income and first-generation students will be able to earn a degree and graduate with modest or no student debt. And doubling the Pell Grant will help close income-based and race-based disparities in educational attainment and thereby help our State meet its postsecondary education attainment goals.

At a time of continued economic and financial uncertainty, particularly for those communities that have been disproportionately impacted by COVID-19, no investment will have a more far-reaching and meaningful impact than doubling the Pell Grant. Improving Pell Grants in this way will have a multi-generational impact in our communities that struggle to achieve postsecondary educational success.

We encourage you to support efforts to double the Pell Grant to ensure that the federal investment in college affordability truly makes higher education success a reality for Minnesota's low-income and first-generation college students and their families.

Our higher education community stands united to assist you in the effort to Double Pell. On behalf of the students we serve, thank you for considering this important request.

Sincerely,



Joan T.A. Gabel
President
University of Minnesota



Devinder Malhotra
Chancellor
Minnesota State



Paul Cerkvenik
President
Minnesota Private College Council