



December 8, 2023

The Honorable Virginia Foxx
Chairwoman
House Committee on Education and the Workforce
2176 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Bobby Scott
Ranking Member
House Committee on Education and the Workforce
2101 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Foxx and Ranking Member Scott:

The National Council of Higher Education Resources (NCHER), representing state, nonprofit, and private organizations that help students and families develop, pay for, and achieve their postsecondary educational goals, is pleased to support H.R. 6585, the Bipartisan Workforce Pell Act. This important, bipartisan legislation would expand eligibility for Pell Grants to include short-term programs and open the doors of postsecondary education and opportunity to more first-generation and low-income college students.

The Pell Grant program is the foundation of federal student aid and helps almost 7 million low- and moderate-income students attend and complete postsecondary education. In order to receive a Pell Grant, a student must be: (1) seeking an undergraduate degree or credential and (2) enrolled in a course of study that includes at least 24 credit hours or 900 clock hours that lasts at least a typical/15-week semester. Because of the credit/clock hour requirement, low-income students are not gaining access to occupational training programs - such as those for certified nursing assistants and other health professionals, hazardous materials transportation, security and protective services, and mechanic and repair technologies - that can be completed in less time and often at a lower cost than enrolling in a traditional higher education setting. Past research supports the concept embedded in H.R. 6585: The U.S. Department of Education's experimental site authority allowing students to take advantage of very short-term Pell Grant opportunities increased program enrollment and completion by about 10 percentage points.

NCHER and its members commend the development of a bipartisan agreement that is a win-win for students and their families. Our membership is pleased to endorse H.R. 6585 and assist in advancing this important legislation through Congress and onto the President's desk.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J P Bergeron", is written over a white background.

James P. Bergeron
President

cc: Members, House Committee on Education and the Workforce