Student’s Name

Address

City, State, Zip

Dear Elected Official,

As your constituent and a Pell Grant recipient, I am writing to urge you to prioritize the doubling of the Pell Grant as you consider the FY’22 Appropriations Bill and Stimulus Packages: the American Jobs Plan and the American Families Plan.

I am asking you to meet this moment by responding to concerns regarding access, affordability, and success in post-secondary education, especially as it relates to COVID-19. You can address these concerns by investing in a proven, effective, and efficient solution: Doubling the maximum Pell Grant to $13,000.

As a Pell Grant recipient, the grant has allowed me to live out my dream of attending college at Loyola University Chicago. Without a Pell Grant, my dream of attending Loyola would not be possible, and I am not the only one. Of Loyola undergraduates and Arrupe College students, 24% receive a Pell Grant. In 2021, Loyola students received more than $13.5 Million in Federal Pell Grants.

The Pell Grant empowers those with economic need, like me, to pursue their dreams without limitation. The financial effects of COVID-19 and the rising expenses of college have led to many students not being able to afford a post-secondary degree without the addition of borrowing loans and working multiple jobs. Investing in the Pell Grant will reduce the need for students to work multiple part-time jobs and allow more students to complete their degrees on time.

Doubling Pell also ensures greater access to higher education. The maximum grant of $13,000 would cover all costs to attend a community college, 52 percent of the average cost to attend a 4-year public college, and 29 percent of the average cost to attend a 4-year private, nonprofit university like Loyola. This will ensure that students have to take out fewer loans, lowering the amount of debt students face after completing their degrees.

Thank you for taking the time to learn more about why doubling the Pell Grant is important for our community, state, and country. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely yours,

Signature and Printed Name

Student of Loyola University Chicago and a Pell Grant recipient