

Alamo Colleges District

Dallas College

Lone Star College

Louisiana Community and
Technical College System

Metropolitan Community
College

Tarrant County College

Virginia Community College
System

Wisconsin Technical College
System



July 1, 2025

The Honorable John Thune
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Hakeem Jefferies
Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Majority Leader Thune, Minority Leader Schumer, Speaker Johnson and Minority Leader Jefferies:

On behalf of Rebuilding America's Middle Class (RAMC), we are pleased that the expansion of Pell grants to include Workforce Pell was included in H.R. 1. RAMC recognizes all Americans, especially low-income and unemployed workers, need access to affordable postsecondary training and credentialing opportunities that can have a significant positive impact on their future career and earnings potential. RAMC supports this expansion of Pell Grants, as it can provide opportunity for many Americans who are seeking a postsecondary education for employment. We look forward, after passage of H.R. 1 by the House, to working with Committee Leadership from both sides and the Administration to ensure the successful implementation of this new authority for students and schools.

RAMC represents more than 75 community colleges and approximately 1 million students nationwide. Community colleges serve 45 percent of all first-time freshmen and 40 percent of our students are first-generation college students. Community colleges are open access, seek to make higher education accessible and affordable for everyone and match employers' need for a larger, more diverse workforce. We know the importance of preparing more Americans to enter the workforce with the skills necessary to compete for in-demand jobs.

Currently, Pell Grants cannot be awarded for programs of less than 600 clock hours in length, which leaves many high-quality and in-demand programs ineligible for Federal aid. The expansion of eligibility for Pell Grants to short-term programs ensures that students gain the knowledge and skills necessary to compete for in-demand jobs in the local workforce. For many individuals, a short-term credential is the first step towards earning a long-term certificate, an associate degree, or a bachelor's degree. Federal

support in such programs has the potential to yield substantial benefits to students and communities.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Monty Sullivan", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Monty Sullivan
Board President, Rebuilding America's Middle Class (RAMC)
President, Louisiana Community and Technical College System

Cc: Chairman Cassidy, Ranking Member Sanders, Chairman Walberg, Ranking Member Scott