



July 30, 2026

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

The Honorable Susan Collins
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
Senate Appropriations LHHS Subcommittee
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tammy Baldwin
Senate Appropriations LHHS Subcommittee
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chair Collins, Vice Chair Murray, Subcommittee Chair Capito and Subcommittee Ranking Member Baldwin:

I am writing on behalf of Rebuilding America's Middle Class (RAMC) to urge the Committee to fund additional implementation grants for colleges working to implement Workforce Pell as part of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2027 appropriations process. Since the passage of H.R. 1, RAMC members have been working to implement the Workforce Pell authority authorized by the bill. RAMC greatly appreciates the support from Congress and the U.S. Department of Education on the implementation of Workforce Pell thus far. However, as our colleges start the process of applying for Workforce Pell eligibility, we have encountered difficulties in accessing adequate funding to develop and execute on the steps needed to implement this authority. We urge the Committee to direct the Department, in the FY 2027 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies (LHHS) appropriations bill, to conduct an additional round of competition for the Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE) program specifically for Workforce Pell implementation support.

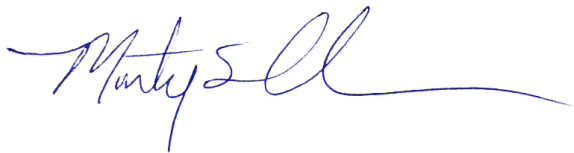
RAMC represents more than 75 community colleges and approximately 1 million students nationwide. Community colleges serve 45 percent of all first-time freshmen and 40 percent of our students are first-generation college students. Community colleges are open access, seeking to make higher education accessible and affordable for everyone and match employers' need for a larger, more skilled workforce. We know the importance of preparing more Americans to enter the workforce with the skills necessary to compete for in-demand jobs. RAMC recognizes that Workforce Pell can provide many individuals, especially low-income and unemployed workers, with access to affordable postsecondary training and credentialing opportunities that can have a significant positive impact on their future career and earnings potential. Our colleges' ability to implement Workforce Pell effectively is key to this mission.

For an institution to receive approval for a Workforce Pell program, it must first submit its Workforce Pell-eligible programs to its State for approval. Prior to this, colleges must collect and analyze data, which in many instances requires coordination among multiple offices, such as registrar and financial aid offices. These intensive efforts require institutions to create new internal systems and processes, all of which require additional

time and funding. Many colleges are navigating tight budgets and do not currently have the resources to ensure that this process is carried out as effectively as possible. An additional round of FIPSE funding for Workforce Pell implementation would allow colleges to focus on developing data and information-sharing systems to easily identify which of their programs are eligible. This will in turn enable them to submit programs to their States for approval more efficiently, allowing them to move through the Federal approval process quickly and ultimately provide Workforce Pell grants to students sooner.

RAMC greatly appreciates Congress' support for Workforce Pell thus far and the funding that has been previously appropriated for FIPSE. We encourage the Committee to consider additional funding for FIPSE grants focused on Workforce Pell implementation as it will allow our institutions to create more opportunities for students to chart a path to the middle class. Further, we hope that both chambers of Congress work to come to an agreement on providing additional funds that will enable more students to access Workforce Pell and enter the workforce seamlessly. Thank you for your attention to our views.

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)
Acting President and Chief Executive Officer, North Carolina Community College System