



## The Student Senate

UNIVERSITY SENATE GOVERNANCE

June 8, 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 Minnesota Members of Congress,

On behalf of the 273,721 undergraduate students in Minnesota, we ask that you support doubling the Pell Grant to make higher education more affordable and more accessible for students. In Minnesota, the 114,682 students receiving a Pell Grant would benefit from increased financial aid. Not only is the Pell Grant a foundational investment in higher education that the nation needs to value, doubling the grant will further eliminate economic and racial inequities, remove unnecessary burdens for students wanting to attain their educational goals, and increase their overall educational experience.

The Pell Grant is a national investment. Students from around the country, in cities and rural areas depend on the Pell Grant to help achieve their educational dreams. Now more than ever, students from low- and moderate-income families need additional assistance to continue to pay for college and receive a quality education. With 60 percent of Black students, half of American Indian or Alaska Native students, and nearly half of Latinx students receiving a Pell Grant each year, it is important to double the Pell Grant as a national effort to remove further burden from students.

In Minnesota specifically, students around the state have faced the impacts of the global pandemic, in addition to the continued burden of student debt and student loans. Students have felt the impacts of the pandemic both economically and personally. With many students contracting the virus or having a close family member or friend contracting it, their college experience has been unique and often difficult. Doubling the Pell Grant will help address some of the economic fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic and support students in completing their education.

We continue to advocate for the over 273,721 students around Minnesota attending college and urge Congress to support the doubling of the Pell Grant. By supporting doubling the Pell Grant, college enrollment, graduation rates and affordability will improve in both the state and the country.

Sincerely,

Sophie Strzok, Chair  
Minnesota Association of Private College Students

Briggs Tople, Chair  
University of Minnesota Student Senate/Student  
Senate Consultative Committee

Sarani Millican, Chair-Elect  
University of Minnesota Student Senate/Student  
Senate Consultative Committee

Jonathan McNicholes, State Chair  
Students United

Priscilla Mayowa, President  
LeadMN -- College Students Connecting for Change