

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. RES.

Expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the maximum amount of a
Federal Pell Grant.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

_____ submitted the following resolution; which was referred
to the Committee on _____

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the maximum
amount of a Federal Pell Grant.

Whereas public investment in higher education yields a re-
turn of several dollars for each dollar invested;

Whereas higher education promotes economic opportunity
and recipients of bachelor's degrees earn 76 percent more
in lifetime earnings than those with only a secondary
school diploma and are also significantly less likely to be
unemployed;

Whereas access to a college education has become a hallmark
of American society, and is vital to upholding our belief
in equality of opportunity;

Whereas for a generation, the Federal Pell Grant has served as an established and effective means of providing access to higher education;

Whereas when viewed in constant dollars, the value of today's Pell Grant maximum award has actually declined by 16 percent since the mid 1970s;

Whereas grant aid as a portion of student aid has fallen significantly in the past 30 years;

Whereas in 1975, grant aid constituted approximately 80 percent of total student aid awarded to college students and loans constituted only 17 percent, now this has reversed with grants making up only 38 percent, and loans covering 56 percent of total student aid;

Whereas the increasing reliance on borrowing to finance a higher education is particularly burdensome on low-income families and has negative consequences for the enrollment of these students; and

Whereas the percentage of freshman attending public and private 4-year institutions of higher education from families with incomes below the national medium has fallen since 1981.

Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

2 (1) the maximum Federal Pell Grant for which
3 a student should be eligible during award year
4 2005–2006 should be \$4,500; and

5 (2) the authorized levels for the Federal Pell
6 Grant maximum amount found in section 401 of the
7 Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070a)

1 should be set high enough to accommodate a Fed-
2 eral Pell Grant amount of \$9,000 by award year
3 2010–2011.