



## Statements of Support – Pell Restoration Act of 2015

---

**The Pell Grant Restoration Act is supported by:** AFL-CIO, Air Force Sergeants Association, American Federation of Teachers, Association of the United States Navy, Center for Law and Social Policy, Consumer Action, Consumer Union, The Education Trust, Equal Justice Works, Housing and Economic Rights Advocates, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, National Association for College Admission Counseling, National Association of Consumer Advocates, National Education Association, National Women Veterans, Public Counsel, Service Employees International Union, Student Debt Crisis, The Institute for College Access and Success, United States Public Interest Research Groups, Veterans for Common Sense, Veterans Education Success, VetJobs.com, Inc., VetsFirst, Young Invincibles

“The National Association for College Admission Counseling appreciates Representative Scott introducing this bill, which seeks to ensure that students can continue their education, even if a college closes due to misconduct. Unfortunately, we have seen colleges close, virtually overnight, because of mismanagement and deception. In many cases, students are left empty handed, unable to pay for tuition at a new college because they have used up all or part of their financial aid. If passed, this legislation will restore their eligibility for Pell so that they can pursue their degree at a new institution.” – **Joyce Smith, CEO of the National Association for College Admission Counseling**

“Too many predatory colleges – like the recently shuttered Corinthian Colleges – seek to make a buck off the backs of students without offering a high-quality education. While the Department of Education has the authority to discharge the debt of defrauded students, Congress must act to truly make these students whole and to allow them the opportunity to pursue the college degree they’ve always dreamed of. We support Rep. Scott’s Pell Restoration Act which will do just that, and urge its swift passage.” – **Randi Weingarten, President of American Federation of Teachers**

“On behalf of low- and moderate-income consumers and limited-English-speaking consumers nationwide, Consumer Action applauds Congressman Scott’s efforts to protect students who are taking proactive steps to secure a better future for themselves and their families through higher education. We believe Pell Grant eligibility should be restored for students who have their federal student loans discharged, either because their schools closed or because of school fraud.” – **Alegra Howard, National Priorities Associate for Consumer Action**

“Many Pell Grant recipients have children, are employed, or are returning to school after time away; all of them have low incomes. Pell may be the only financial tool they have to make college attendance possible. The Pell Restoration Act protects the interests of such students by allowing their Pell eligibility to be restored for time spent at an institution that closed or committed misconduct.” – **Center for Law and Social Policy**

“Students should not take the hit of losing their Pell Grant money because of a school closing due to mismanagement or misconduct. In too many instances recently, hard-working students have lost their Pell Grant money to schools who care more about making a profit than providing a sound postsecondary education. I commend Ranking Member Scott for addressing this important issue by introducing the Pell Restoration Act and ensuring that a student’s path to higher education is not disrupted due to circumstances outside his or her control.” – **Lily Eskelsen García, President of National Education Association**

“Currently, students who are victims of for-profit schools such as Corinthian Colleges may be eligible to have their federal student loans discharged. This option has not yet been spelled out and has not yet resulted in any relief for the students. Moreover, it does nothing to allow low-income students to pursue their education at another educational institution, with the assistance that the Pell Grant is designed to provide. Those benefits have been lost forever. The Pell



## Statements of Support – Pell Restoration Act of 2015

---

Restoration Act of 2015 will restore these students' Pell Grant eligibility. This restoration will give students a fresh start on achieving their educational and career goals. We here at Public Counsel would like to thank you for your leadership in protecting the interests of students across the country. We strongly support the Pell Restoration Act of 2015 and are grateful for your efforts to see this very important bill become law." – **Anne Richardson, Associate Director of Public Counsel**

"SEIU applauds Rep. Bobby Scott (D-VA)'s sponsorship of the Pell Grant Restoration Act of 2015, that fixes an omission in current law so that Pell Grant eligibility can be restored for any student who has their federal student loans discharged, either because their school closed or because of school fraud. This bill is an important step in the ongoing effort to focus federal higher education policy on support for students, investing in instruction, and holding educational institutions accountable. Current and former for profit education students, like the more than 12,000 Pell Grant recipients who were estimated to be enrolled at the Corinthian campuses that suddenly closed, and many others around the country, need the legal corrections in Rep. Scott's bill to be able to continue their education and get a meaningful degree or certificate at a reputable school." – **Service Employees International Union**

"On behalf of the Association of the United States Navy (AUSN), we are writing to express our support for your bill, The Pell Restoration Act of 2015, which would restore the Federal Pell Grant to students who lost their eligibility for the grant due to school closures. Although Veterans have the GI Bill to help with costs of higher education, the Federal Pell Grant has helped many veterans afford a higher education. Due to the closing of schools, such as Corinthian Campuses, many students are left without the ability to get their Pell Grant, leaving more than 12,000 Pell Grant recipients at the Corinthian colleges without the necessary money to receive a higher education. The Pell Restoration Act of 2015 aids in the response to the oversight that leads to thousands of students left unable to afford college. The bill would amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to clarify the Federal Pell Grant duration limits, to allow those who attended a closed school continue their education elsewhere. This bill gives the opportunity of higher education back to students and Veterans across the country. Veterans deserve the best care our country can give them and an education is certainly part of that care. Thank you for your initiative in introducing legislation which seeks to help our Veterans continue their education." – **Michael J. Little CDR Bill Manofsky, Association of the United States Navy (AUSN)**

"The Institute for College Access & Success enthusiastically supports the Pell Restoration Act of 2015 to restore students' Pell Grant eligibility if their school closes before they can finish or if their school engages in misconduct that qualifies borrowers for a federal loan discharge. The Pell Restoration Act is urgently needed legislation that will help former students of Corinthian Colleges, and other schools like them, get the fresh start they deserve by ensuring they can use the Pell Grants they qualify for to obtain a meaningful degree or certificate at another school. Prior to 2008, students could receive Pell Grants for as long as they were making satisfactory academic progress towards a degree or certificate. So if a school closed before a student could finish, the student didn't need to worry about their Pell Grant eligibility running out. However, in 2008 Congress limited future Pell Grant eligibility to nine years, and in 2011 this lifetime limit was lowered to six years. Now when a school closes before students can finish or if a school engages in misconduct, students may not have enough Pell Grant eligibility left to start over and complete a program at another school. This legislation resolves this problem and ensures that students eligible for federal loan discharges due to actions taken by their school will also have their Pell Grant eligibility restored so they can pursue and complete a degree at another school. Thank you for introducing this important legislation" – **Pauline Abernath, Vice President of The Institute for College Access & Success**

"Students should not be unfairly penalized when unscrupulous schools commit fraud or other misconduct. They deserve a fresh start as they continue to pursue their career goals." – **Pamela Banks, Senior Policy Counsel for Consumers Union**



# **Statements of Support – Pell Restoration Act of 2015**

---