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June 6, 2025

Dr. Phillip Swagel
Director
Congressional Budget Office
United States Congress
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Director Swagel,

Last month the U.S. House of Representatives passed H.R. 1, which included several proposals within the jurisdiction of the Education and Workforce Committee that would significantly alter access to federal student aid.¹

Last month, the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) published cost estimates of H.R. 1 which included estimates on changes to Pell Grant eligibility in Section 30031 of the bill. CBO estimates that changing the definition of full-time enrollment from 24 credits to 30 credits would reduce direct spending by roughly \$7.1 billion over ten years.² Eliminating eligibility for students enrolled less than half time is estimated to reduce direct spending by \$687 million over ten years. The CBO estimate did not provide information about the number of students who would be affected by these proposed changes.

Therefore, I am requesting CBO to provide my office with an estimate of how many students would be impacted by the proposed Pell Grant eligibility changes. Specifically:

1. How many students would see a decrease in their Pell Grant award due to the proposed change to the definition of full-time enrollment in Sec. 30031(b)?
2. How many students would either lose their Pell Grant or receive a smaller award due to the proposed Pell Grant ineligibility for students enrolled less than half time in Sec. 30031(d)?

¹ H.R. 1, 119th Cong (2025); H. Rpt. 119-116 pt. 1, 454-470 (conveying Minority Member views on portions of H.R. 1 in the jurisdiction of the House Education and Workforce Committee).

² Reconciliation Recommendations of the House Committee on Education and Workforce, Congressional Budget Office, 10 (May 15, 2025), <https://www.cbo.gov/publication/61412>.

Dr. Phillip Swagel

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Thank you for your prompt attention to this request. I look forward to receiving your response as soon as possible but no later than Monday, June 9, 2025.

Sincerely,



ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT

Ranking Member