

# Adalena Baxter

## Congressional Hearing Remarks

Good afternoon Senator Casey, distinguished guests and fellow students.

Hello, my name is Adalena Baxter and I am a senior, psychology major at Cheyney University of Pennsylvania.

As a first generation college student, I must say that I am proud to have come this far, especially with all the adversity I have faced along the way. Before entering college, my main concern was finding enough financial support to attend the college of my choice.

Thankfully, I was able to receive a Pell grant, some PHEAA grants as well as take out loans to cover the remaining balance.

While I am extremely grateful to have access to those funding sources, I am concerned that the funding will not be enough to compete with the rising cost of tuition and other expenses that come with being a hard working college student.

Currently, I am a work-study student at Cheyney University in the Office of the President, but I have often held two jobs to help me keep up with rising costs. I have found it difficult to maintain a 3.2 g.p.a. as a full-time student while working over 40 hours a week with two jobs just to buy books and other necessary school related expenses.

Unfortunately, the prices rarely go down and stay down, especially not higher education. In particular, the rising cost in tuition and books alone, it would only seem logical that Pell grants would increase as well to accommodate these rising cost.

In the country that we live in, gas prices and the cost of living are constantly on the rise and to accommodate those increases over the years; wages and even minimum wage have risen to meet this need.

Having access to financial aid has allowed me to attend college and continue my education in the hope to better myself and eventually give back to my community. However, I believe that it is imperative to raise the Pell grant level to help allow students to remain in school and to match the rising cost of education.

Thank you very much for your time.