



The Student Aid Improvement Act of 2019

Package of Eight Bipartisan Bills

Drafted by 35 Senators – 20 Democrats, 15 Republicans

1. Provides permanent mandatory funding, \$255 million each year, for Historically Black Colleges and Universities and other Minority Serving Institutions.
2. **FAFSA simplification:** Reduces the number of questions on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid from 108 to 17-30. This also means that 250,000 students will now be eligible for a Pell grant, and an additional 1.3 million students will be eligible for the maximum Pell grant award. *(Alexander and Jones)*
3. **Pell grants for prisoners:** Allows incarcerated individuals who are eligible for parole to use a Pell grant for prison-education programs. *(Schatz, Lee and Durbin)*
4. **Short-Term Pell:** Allows students to use their Pell grants at high-quality short-term skills and job training programs that lead to credentialing and employment in high-demand fields like health care or cybersecurity. *(Portman, Kaine, Cardin, Gillibrand, Hassan, Klobuchar, Stabenow, Baldwin, Brown, Capito, Coons, Ernst, Jones, Moran, Shaheen, Sinema, Smith, Wicker and Braun)*
5. **Simplify aid letters:** Ensures students can understand their financial aid offers. *(Grassley, Smith, Cassidy, Ernst, Hassan, Jones, Klobuchar, Manchin and Rubio)*
6. **Increases the maximum Pell grant award.**
7. To pay for this package, a bipartisan proposal that both President Obama and President Trump have supported to ensure that students who opt to pay back their loans under the income driven repayment plan pay the full 10 percent of their discretionary income as the law intended.
8. **FAFSA Act** – Allows students to answer up to 22 questions on the current FAFSA with one click by using data the government already has from the IRS. This would also reduce the burdensome verification process. The Senate has already passed this once. This provision is within the jurisdiction of the Senate Finance Committee, and will be included once the package is ready for consideration on the Senate floor. *(Alexander, Murray, Senators Collins, Cornyn, Gardner, Hassan, King, Stabenow, Tillis and Whitehouse)*

Three additional provisions supported by 30 Senators from both sides of the aisle which should be included in this package at a later date:

- **The College Transparency Act:** Creates a Student unit record system to help students and families compare how students performed at specific colleges and universities. *(Warren, Cassidy, Baldwin, Brown, Casey, Cornyn, Duckworth, Ernst, Gardner, Graham, Grassley, Hassan, Hyde-Smith, Jones, Kaine, Klobuchar, Murphy, Perdue, Roberts, Romney, Scott, Sinema, Smith, Sullivan, Tillis, Toomey and Whitehouse)*
- **The Education of the Deaf Act:** Reauthorizes Gallaudet University in Washington, D.C. and has a long history of bipartisan support.
- **The Educational Opportunity and Success Act:** Reauthorizes the TRIO program which helps low income, first generation, and other disadvantaged students enroll and succeed in a college or university program. *(Collins, Baldwin, Capito and Tester)*