

**AMENDMENT TO THE AMENDMENT IN THE
NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE TO H.R. 6951
OFFERED BY Ms. HAYES OF CONNECTICUT**

Amend section 211 to read as follows:

1 **SEC. 211. FEDERAL PELL GRANT PROGRAM.**

2 (a) DOUBLING FEDERAL PELL GRANTS AND PRO-
3 VIDING ALL FEDERAL PELL GRANTS THROUGH MANDA-
4 TORY FUNDING.—

5 (1) AMOUNT OF MINIMUM FEDERAL PELL
6 GRANTS.—Section 401 of the Higher Education Act
7 of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070a), as amended by the
8 FAFSA Simplification Act, is amended—

9 (A) in subsection (a)(2)(F), by striking
10 “10 percent” and inserting “5 percent”;

11 (B) in subsection (b)—

12 (i) in paragraph (1)(B)(i), by striking
13 “paragraph (5)(A)” and inserting “para-
14 graph (5)”;

15 (ii) by striking paragraph (5) and in-
16 serting the following:

17 “(5) TOTAL MAXIMUM FEDERAL PELL
18 GRANT.—

1 “(A) AWARD YEAR 2025–2026.—For award
2 year 2025–2026, the total maximum Federal
3 Pell Grant award shall be \$10,000.

4 “(B) AWARD YEAR 2026–2027.—For award
5 year 2026–2027, the total maximum Federal
6 Pell Grant award shall be \$11,000.

7 “(C) AWARD YEAR 2027–2028.—For award
8 year 2027–2028, the total maximum Federal
9 Pell Grant award shall be \$12,000.

10 “(D) AWARD YEAR 2028–2029.—For award
11 year 2028–2029, the total maximum Federal
12 Pell Grant award shall be \$13,000.

13 “(E) AWARD YEAR 2029–2030.—For award
14 year 2029–2030, the total maximum Federal
15 Pell Grant award shall be \$14,000.

16 “(F) AWARD YEAR 2030–2031 AND SUBSE-
17 QUENT YEARS.—For award year 2030–2031,
18 and each subsequent award year, the total max-
19 imum Federal Pell Grant award shall be
20 \$14,000—

21 “(i) increased by the adjustment per-
22 centage for the award year for which the
23 amount under this subparagraph is being
24 determined; and

25 “(ii) rounded to the nearest \$50.

1 “(G) DEFINITION OF ADJUSTMENT PER-
2 CENTAGE.—In this paragraph, the term ‘adjust-
3 ment percentage,’ as applied to an award year,
4 is equal to the percentage increase in the Con-
5 sumer Price Index, as defined in section 478(f),
6 for the most recent calendar year ending prior
7 to the beginning of the award year.”;

8 (iii) by striking paragraphs (6) and
9 (7) and inserting the following:

10 “(6) APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS.—There are
11 authorized to be appropriated, and there are appro-
12 priated, out of any money in the Treasury not other-
13 wise appropriated, such sums as may be necessary
14 for fiscal year 2025 and each subsequent fiscal year
15 to provide the total maximum Federal Pell Grant for
16 which a student shall be eligible under this section
17 during an award year.”; and

18 (iv) by redesignating paragraphs (8)
19 and (9) as paragraphs (7) and (8), respec-
20 tively;

21 (C) in subsection (d)(5)(B)(ii)—

22 (i) in subclause (I)(bb), by striking
23 “or” after the semicolon;

1 (ii) in subclause (II)(bb)(CC), by
2 striking the period and inserting “; or”;
3 and

4 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-
5 lowing:

6 “(III) during a period for which
7 the student did not receive a loan
8 under this title but for which, if the
9 student had received such a loan, such
10 loan would have been discharged
11 under the circumstances described in
12 subclause (II)(bb)(CC).”;

13 (D) by striking subsections (g) and (h);
14 and

15 (E) by redesignating subsections (i) and (j)
16 as subsections (g) and (h), respectively.

17 (2) REPEAL OF SCORING REQUIREMENT.—

18 (A) IN GENERAL.—Section 406 of H. Con.
19 Res. 95 (109th Congress) is amended—

20 (i) by striking subsection (b); and

21 (ii) by striking “(a) IN GENERAL.—
22 Upon” and inserting the following:
23 “Upon”.

1 (B) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments
2 made by paragraph (1) shall take effect begin-
3 ning on July 1, 2025.

4 (3) STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES.—Section
5 402D(d)(1) of the Higher Education Act of 1965
6 (20 U.S.C. 1070a–14(d)(1)) is amended by striking
7 “the minimum” and inserting “10 percent of the
8 maximum”.

9 (4) SCHOLARSHIP COMPONENT.—Section
10 404E(d) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20
11 U.S.C. 1070a–25(d)) is amended by striking “less
12 than the minimum” and inserting “less than 10 per-
13 cent of the maximum”.

14 (b) PROVIDING INCREASED FEDERAL PELL GRANTS
15 AND OTHER ASSISTANCE FOR RECIPIENTS OF MEANS-
16 TESTED BENEFITS.—

17 (1) INCREASED AMOUNT OF MAXIMUM FED-
18 ERAL PELL GRANTS FOR STUDENTS WITH NEGATIVE
19 STUDENT AID INDEXES.—Section 401(b)(1) of the
20 Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
21 1070a(b)(1)), as amended by paragraph (1) and sec-
22 tion 703 of the FAFSA Simplification Act, is fur-
23 ther amended—

24 (A) in subparagraph (A)—

1 (i) in the matter preceding clause (i),
2 by striking “A student” and inserting “Ex-
3 cept in the case of a student with a stu-
4 dent aid index of less than zero, a stu-
5 dent”;

6 (ii) by striking clause (i); and

7 (iii) by redesignating clauses (ii) and
8 (iii) as clauses (i) and (ii), respectively;

9 (B) by redesignating subparagraphs (B)
10 through (E) as subparagraphs (C) through (F),
11 respectively;

12 (C) by inserting after subparagraph (A)
13 the following:

14 “(B) A student with a student aid index of
15 less than zero shall be eligible for a Federal
16 Pell Grant award that exceeds the total max-
17 imum Federal Pell Grant by an amount equal
18 to the amount by which the student’s student
19 aid index is less than zero.”;

20 (D) in subparagraph (C), as redesignated
21 by clause (ii)—

22 (i) in the matter preceding clause (i),
23 by striking “subparagraph (A) for an aca-
24 demic year,” and inserting “subparagraph
25 (A), or an increased Federal Pell Grant

1 under subparagraph (B), for an academic
2 year,”; and

3 (ii) in clause (ii), by striking “, except
4 that a student aid index of less than zero
5 shall be considered to be zero for the pur-
6 poses of this clause”;

7 (E) in subparagraph (D), as redesignated
8 by clause (ii), by striking “(A) or (B)” and in-
9 serting “(A), (B), or (C)”;

10 (F) in subparagraph (E), as redesignated
11 by clause (ii), by inserting “or an increased
12 Federal Pell Grant under subparagraph (B)”
13 after “subparagraph (A)”;

14 (G) in subparagraph (F), as redesignated
15 by clause (ii), by striking “or a minimum Fed-
16 eral Pell Grant under subparagraph (C)” and
17 inserting “an increased Federal Pell Grant
18 under subparagraph (B), or a minimum Fed-
19 eral Pell Grant under subparagraph (D)”.

20 (2) SPECIAL STUDENT AID INDEX RULE FOR
21 RECIPIENTS OF MEANS-TESTED BENEFITS.—Section
22 473 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20
23 U.S.C. 1087mm), as amended by section 702(b) of
24 the FAFSA Simplification Act, is amended by add-
25 ing at the end the following:

1 “(d) SPECIAL RULE FOR MEANS-TESTED BENEFIT
2 RECIPIENTS.—Notwithstanding subsection (b), for an ap-
3 plicant (or, as applicable, an applicant and spouse, or an
4 applicant’s parents) who, at any time during the previous
5 24-month period, received a benefit under a means-tested
6 Federal benefit program (or whose parent or spouse re-
7 ceived such a benefit, as applicable), the Secretary shall
8 for the purposes of this title consider the student aid index
9 as equal to $-\$1,500$ for the applicant.”.

