

115TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 996

To improve college affordability.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 1, 2017

Mr. HEINRICH introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

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## A BILL

To improve college affordability.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Creating Higher Edu-  
5 cation Affordability Necessary to Compete Economically  
6 Act” or the “Middle Class CHANCE Act”.

7 **SEC. 2. INCREASE IN THE MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF A FED-**  
8 **ERAL PELL GRANT.**

9 Section 401(b)(7)(C) of the Higher Education Act of  
10 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070a(b)(7)(C)) is amended—

11 (1) in clause (i)(I), by striking “clause (iv)(II)”  
12 and inserting “clause (v)(II)”;

1 (2) in clause (ii)—

2 (A) in the heading, by striking “THROUGH  
3 2017–2018” and inserting “THROUGH 2016–2017”;

4 (B) in the matter preceding subclause (I),  
5 by striking “through 2017–2018” and inserting  
6 “and 2016–2017”; and

7 (C) in subclause (I), by striking “clause  
8 (iv)(II)” and inserting “clause (v)(II)”;

9 (3) by redesignating clauses (iii) and (iv) as  
10 clauses (iv) and (v), respectively;

11 (4) by inserting after clause (ii) the following:

12 “(iii) AWARD YEAR 2017–2018.—For  
13 award year 2017–2018, the amount deter-  
14 mined under this subparagraph for pur-  
15 poses of subparagraph (B)(iii) shall be  
16 equal to—

17 “(I) \$9,650; reduced by

18 “(II) the maximum Federal Pell  
19 Grant for which a student was eligi-  
20 ble, as specified in the last enacted  
21 appropriation Act applicable to award  
22 year 2017–2018; and

23 “(III) rounded to the nearest  
24 \$5.”; and

1           (5) by striking clause (iv), as redesignated by  
2 paragraph (3), and inserting the following:

3           “(iv) SUBSEQUENT AWARD YEARS.—

4           For award year 2018–2019 and each sub-  
5 sequent award year, the amount deter-  
6 mined under this subparagraph for pur-  
7 poses of subparagraph (B)(iii) shall be  
8 equal to—

9           “(I) the amount determined  
10 under this subparagraph for the pre-  
11 ceding award year; increased by

12           “(II) a percentage equal to the  
13 annual adjustment percentage for the  
14 award year for which the amount  
15 under this subparagraph is being de-  
16 termined; and

17           “(III) rounded to the nearest  
18 \$5.”.

19 **SEC. 3. YEAR-ROUND FEDERAL PELL GRANT STUDENTS.**

20           (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 401(b) of the Higher  
21 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070a(b)) is amended  
22 by adding at the end the following:

23           “(8)(A) In this paragraph, the term ‘eligible student’  
24 means a student who—

1           “(i) has received a Federal Pell Grant for an  
2           award year and is enrolled in an eligible program for  
3           one or more additional payment periods during the  
4           same award year that are not otherwise fully covered  
5           by the student’s Federal Pell Grant;

6           “(ii) continues to meets all eligibility require-  
7           ments to receive a Federal Pell Grant under this  
8           section; and

9           “(iii) attends an institution of higher education  
10          on average, not less than a half-time basis.

11          “(B) Notwithstanding any other provision of this  
12          subsection, the Secretary shall award an additional Fed-  
13          eral Pell Grant to an eligible student for the additional  
14          payment periods during an award year that are not other-  
15          wise fully covered by the student’s Federal Pell Grant for  
16          the award year.

17          “(C) In the case of a student receiving more than  
18          one Federal Pell Grant in a single award year under sub-  
19          paragraph (B), the total amount of the Federal Pell  
20          Grants awarded to such student for the award year shall  
21          not exceed an amount equal to 150 percent of the total  
22          maximum Federal Pell Grant for such award year cal-  
23          culated in accordance with paragraph (7)(C)(v)(II).

24          “(D) Any period of study covered by a Federal Pell  
25          Grant awarded under subparagraph (B) shall be included

1 in determining a student's duration limit under subsection  
2 (c)(5).

3 “(9) In any case where an eligible student is receiving  
4 a Federal Pell Grant for a payment period that spans 2  
5 award years, the Secretary shall allow the eligible institu-  
6 tion in which the student is enrolled to determine the  
7 award year to which the additional period shall be as-  
8 signed.”.

9 (b) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendment made by  
10 subsection (a) shall take effect on July 1, 2017.

11 **SEC. 4. PELL GRANT DURATION LIMIT.**

12 Section 401(c)(5) of the Higher Education Act of  
13 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070a(c)(5)) is amended by striking “12  
14 semesters” and inserting “15 semesters” each place the  
15 term appears.

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