



# UNITED STATES STUDENT ASSOCIATION **NEWS RELEASE**

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## **Students Praise Congressional Vote to Pass Obama Budget with Investments to Pell Grants & Reform to Student Aid**

*Students Claim Victory to Budget Investing in Education After Thousands Make Calls, Send Letters*

Washington, DC – On Wednesday Congress passed the federal budget resolution based on President Obama’s blueprint to make major investments in education, healthcare and other federal programs critical to American families. Education was a significant focus of the President’s budget proposal which is estimated to give over 260,000 more students a Pell grant if this budget is funded based on the resolution passed today. The Pell grant currently serves 5.1 million students and serves as the cornerstone of federal aid in the United States.

“The passage of the budget proposed by President Obama will surely be the first page of a new chapter to renew college education in America. We still have a great deal of work ahead to ensure education is a right for every student who strives for it, but by making the Pell grant available to every hard working child and family we will vastly improve the lives of everyday Americans,” stated Carmen Berkley, President of the United States Student Association.

The United States Student Association organized students in districts across the country sending over 4,000 letters to Congress, making approximately 1,000 phone calls and 150 lobby visits in support of President Obama’s budget priorities to reform the student aid system and fully fund the Pell grant as a mandatory grant program to make college an opportunity for every hard student who wants to go to college.

“From the ballot box to the budget we are pleased to see Congress acting in the best interest of young people in America after playing such a huge role in the 2008 Presidential election. We will continue to fight aggressively with President Obama to ensure the Pell Grant is completely funded to protect American families from the economic crisis we are in despite resistance from private student lending companies,” Berkley stated.

Founded in 1947, United States Student Association is the nation’s oldest and largest student advocacy organization made up of student leaders on campuses throughout the country. With over 4 million members represented on over 400 college campuses, the USSA engages and mobilizes students to make education a right.

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