

March 3, 2015

The Honorable Nikki R. Hailey
Office of Governor
1205 Pendleton Street
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

RE: College Grant Letter

Dear Mrs. Governor Hailey,

As a student at University of Phoenix, I am working hard to pursue my dreams of higher education. Like 3 million other students at the University each year, I depend on Pell grants and student loans to stay in school.

From tuition and fees, to textbooks and room and board, the costs of college are rising dramatically. That's why maintaining the maximum Pell grant award of \$5,550 is an important part of providing opportunity to students like me. I have applied for scholarships but I have not had any response from the college.

Unfortunately, recent proposals to make rates higher for the Pell Grant program and increase tuition by thousands of dollars would make it much harder for me and my fellow students who are working towards higher education. I have propose to voc rehabilitation and unemployment (WIA program) and other organizations to help the cost of tuition, books, and other misc fees but the organizations do not have enough funding to help all students that are wanting to finish up or going back to college. I have applied for a private loan with SC Student Loan Corporation and I was denied due to my credit and my

am looking for work and wanting to go back and finish up at Phoenix online. I want to finish up my Bachelor Degree with Phoenix so I can find a good job to be able to provide for my family and also succeed in life. After receiving my bachelors my goal is to continue my education with Phoenix and strive for Associate Degree in Administrative Assistant. I am not able to apply for Pell grant due to being maxed out and with student loans I owe \$70,000 in student loans from attending previous college at Orangeburg Calhoun Technical College from 2004-2007 and attending University of Phoenix from 2009- to present.

I am still registered as a college student with Phoenix just not able to take classes due to no funding. Phoenix has informed me that I have 2 more years to complete my bachelors' degree and I do not want to wait anymore longer then I have to. To help me pursue my dreams, please protect the Pell Grant program in Congress and preserve its impact as one of the most powerful tools to increase access to higher education. To help make sure that I and other fellow students are able to get the education that they are wanting so we can succeed in life and provide a better future.

Thank you,

Amy Martin
College Student
834 Sand Street
Orangeburg, SC 29115