



June 24, 2019

Honorable Robert Scott
Chairman
House Education and Labor Committee
2176 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Honorable Virginia Foxx
Ranking Member
House Education and Labor Committee
2101 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Scott and Ranking Member Foxx:

AccessLex Institute is pleased to offer its support for H.R. 3334, the *Expanding Access to Graduate Education Act*, which would allow students who received a Pell grant as an undergraduate student to use any of their remaining Pell eligibility toward their first graduate degree.

AccessLex Institute, in partnership with its nearly 200 nonprofit and state-affiliated ABA-approved member law schools, has been committed to improving access to legal education and to maximizing the affordability and value of a law degree since 1983. The AccessLex Center for Legal Education Excellence advocates for policies that make legal education work better for students and society alike and conducts research on the most critical issues facing legal education today.

Under current law, students are prohibited from using any of their remaining Pell grant funds to finance their graduate education. This runs contrary to the central purpose of the Higher Education Act, which is to provide access to postsecondary education for those who may not otherwise be able to afford it. Therefore, students should be allowed to use their already apportioned grant funds to continue their education and make a better life for themselves and their families.

Introduced on June 19, 2019 by Representatives Ann Kuster (D-NH), Harley Rouda (D-CA), Kim Schrier, M.D. (D-WA), Fred Upton (R-MI), and Tim Burchett (R-TN), the *Expanding Access to Graduate Education Act* would allow low-income students, most of whom rely on loans to finance their graduate education, to use remaining Pell grant funds toward their first graduate degree. Doing so could materially decrease the cost of graduate education for eligible low-income students. And as more jobs in our economy require graduate or professional degrees, Congress must enact policies that make access to advanced education a priority. This legislation does just that.

The Committee has continually demonstrated that access and affordability are critical to its work, and AccessLex believes that the *Expanding Access to Graduate Education Act* presents a strong opportunity to meaningfully and immediately enhance access and affordability of graduate and professional education for low-income and underrepresented students.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or Nancy Conneely, Director of Policy, at nconneely@accesslex.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "A-N. Tylor".

Aaron N. Taylor
Executive Director, Center for Legal Education Excellence