



June 28, 2021

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

The 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. 4002, the *Expanding Access to Graduate Education Act*, which would expand access to graduate education by allowing those who received a Pell Grant award as an undergraduate to use their remaining Pell eligibility toward their first graduate or professional 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 their remaining Pell Grant funds to finance their graduate education. This runs counter 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. Additionally, as more jobs in our economy require graduate or professional degrees, Congress must make sure that policies that are enacted make access to advanced education a priority. Re-introduced on June 17, 2021 by Representative Ann Kuster (D-NH), Tim Burchett (R-TN), Kim Schrier, MD (D-WA), and Fred Upton (R-MI), the *Expanding Access to Graduate Education Act* would do 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 at [cchapman@accesslex.org](mailto:cchapman@accesslex.org) or Nancy Conneely, Managing Director of Policy, at [nconneely@accesslex.org](mailto:nconneely@accesslex.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris S", written in a cursive style.

Christopher P. Chapman  
President and Chief Executive Officer