



DUE PROCESS

INSTITUTE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Press Contact: tamara@idueprocess.org

Pell Grant Restoration Signed Into Law

WASHINGTON, DC – December 27, 2020

The annual omnibus spending bill was signed into law and included Pell Grant restoration for incarcerated individuals. The law’s restoration of Pell Grant eligibility allows incarcerated individuals to pursue more educational opportunities in prison and provides greater access to higher education.

We would like to thank Sens. Brian Schatz (D-HI), Mike Lee (R-UT), and Dick Durbin (D-IL) and Reps. Danny Davis (D-IL), Jim Bank (R-IN), Barbara Lee (D-CA), and French Hill (R-AR) for their leadership as sponsors of Pell Grant restoration legislation.

“Our justice system fails us if the people returning back into our communities after incarceration do not succeed and this takes an important step towards addressing an existing failure,” said Shana O’Toole, President of the Due Process Institute. “Education is a critical piece of preparing incarcerated individuals for reentry. We know how important Pell eligibility is for establishing much-needed educational programs and learning behind the wall.

“Incarcerated individuals deserve a meaningful opportunity to educate themselves in order to prepare to rejoin us as productive members of society—and we are grateful to see that providing this kind of support is a bipartisan cause.”

The Due Process Institute is a bipartisan nonprofit that works to honor, preserve, and restore principles of fairness in the criminal legal system. For further inquiries, please contact media@idueprocess.org.