



H.R. 4240

## File Once FAFSA Act of 2019

### COSPONSORS

Original cosponsors include Rep. Mary Gay Scanlon (D-PA) and Rep. Kim Schrier (D-WA). For the most recent complete list of cosponsors, click [here](#).

### BACKGROUND

Every year, approximately 2 million college students who would have been eligible to receive a Federal Pell Grant do not fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Some Pell-eligible students may not file again due to lack of awareness, and research suggests that the complexity of the application process also prevents many students from obtaining aid. At the same time, research also shows that making Pell Grant recipients refile the FAFSA has minimal to no effect on the amount of federal aid they are eligible for because their economic circumstances do not change much from year to year.

The File Once FAFSA Act of 2019 will reduce administrative burdens for students and schools, simplifying the application process for Pell Grant recipients by:

- Ensuring that any Pell-eligible student who completes the FAFSA for the first time and learns they are eligible for a Pell Grant will not be required to refile the FAFSA.
- Allowing the student to maintain their expected family contribution (EFC) as calculated for the first year of filing, for the purposes of calculating federal student aid, for every succeeding year of the program's course of study.
- Granting dependent student certification for each academic year via a simple, consumer-tested form that asks whether the student's circumstances have significantly changed. Students who indicate they have significant changes will be prompted to file a new FAFSA indicating their updated status.

Under the File Once FAFSA Act of 2019, a student with significant changes in financial circumstances in subsequent years will still be eligible to receive a professional judgment determination from their financial aid administrator. That student's adjusted EFC will be used for determining aid in succeeding years without requiring the student to refile.

If enacted, the bill would help over 7 million low-income students obtain Pell Grants more easily.

### ENDORISING ORGANIZATIONS

The File Once FAFSA Act of 2019 is endorsed by the Center for American Progress.

### CONTACT

For more information or to cosponsor the bill, contact Caroline Paris-Behr in Rep. Underwood's office at [caroline.paris-behr@mail.house.gov](mailto:caroline.paris-behr@mail.house.gov) or (202) 225-2976.