



OREGON'S SENATOR JEFF MERKLEY

Coronavirus Resources: Higher Education

Sen. Merkley, using his leadership position on the Senate Appropriations Committee, fought hard to make sure the \$2.2 trillion coronavirus relief funding stabilizes families, workers, small businesses, housing, education, agriculture, and health care. As these resources are distributed, Sen. Merkley's office will keep Oregonians up to date on what in the bill helps individuals and communities, and how to access the resources. He will continue to fight to make sure much-needed aid gets to the people who need it most.

Coronavirus relief to help higher education students and institutions:

The coronavirus relief bill contains significant resources to help higher education institutions and students adapt to the coronavirus crisis:

- **\$13.81 Billion for the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund:** Funds will be distributed by the Secretary of Education through the Education Stabilization Fund, to eligible applicants—accredited public, nonprofit private institutions—to help them mitigate tuition losses and upfront costs of adopting remote learning technology.
- **Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants (SEOG) for Emergency Aid:** Allows institutions of higher education to award additional SEOG funds as emergency grant aid to students impacted by COVID-19.

Additionally, this bill contains important policy provisions to help students get through this unprecedented time:

- **If you have federal student loans,** your monthly federal student loan payments will be suspended until September. During this time, no additional interest will accrue. This is a critical step to provide badly needed economic relief for millions of borrowers.
- **If you participate in a federal work study program,** but that work has been disrupted by the coronavirus, you will still receive your payments.
- **If you drop out of school because of the coronavirus,** this academic term won't count toward your lifetime subsidized loan eligibility or Pell Grant eligibility.
- **If you drop out of school because of the coronavirus,** your grades will not affect your grant or student loan eligibility. You are also not required to return unused Pell funding or federal student loans should you drop out of school because of the coronavirus.
- **If you are a TEACH Grant recipient** and you are unable to complete a full year of teaching because of the coronavirus, your partial year of service will count as a full year for your TEACH Grant obligations or Teacher Loan Forgiveness.

For updates: Visit merkley.senate.gov/coronavirus for updates on these and other resources as the relief bills are implemented.