

A HITJOB ON HIGHER ED

HOW FEDERAL FUNDING CUTS WILL HURT HIGHER EDUCATION

AFSCME members help keep America's institutions of higher education running. Our jobs vary; we work in libraries, maintain buildings and grounds, keep IT systems operating, provide food services, and more, but we're united by our dedication to higher education. The White House, along with anti-union extremists and billionaires, have been threatening to pull billions of dollars in critical federal funds from universities, colleges, junior colleges and technical schools.

**Right now, our jobs and the
institutions we serve are under
attack – and it's only getting worse.**

BREAKING DOWN THE ATTACKS ON HIGHER EDUCATION

Grants and Contracts

One way the administration is attacking higher education is by threatening our schools' grants and contracts, which pay for more than half of all research at colleges and universities. It's through federal grants and contracts that our schools conduct research in areas like medicine, engineering, agriculture and more. Those federal dollars also help pay for our schools' operating costs.

The White House has already halted some grant funding for colleges and universities, which has led to some of our fellow AFSCME members losing their jobs. And we expect more cuts will follow for institutions that do not follow the administration's ideological agenda.

There are also plans to cut grants from the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the largest federal funder of research at universities or colleges. De-funding those grants will stop life-saving research and could lead to more AFSCME members losing jobs.

Attacks on Federal Student Loans and Pell Grants

As the administration dismantles the Department of Education, makes fewer people eligible for Public Service Loan Forgiveness, reduces other student loan borrower forgiveness and tries to garnish borrowers' wages, a chilling effect will follow.

Fewer students enrolling will mean less revenue for colleges and universities – leading to worse contracts, and possible layoffs at institutions.

Anti-union lawmakers in Congress are also trying to cut student aid by \$330 billion over 10 years. This includes limiting students' access to Pell Grants, a type of financial aid for six million low-income students pursuing higher education. Cuts to Pell grants will also drive down enrollment, putting further pressure on institutions' budgets. Other attacks include eliminating federally subsidized student loans, restrictive limits on student loan repayment assistance programs and more.

Threats to university-affiliated hospitals

As anti-union extremists and billionaires are seeking devastating cuts to programs like Medicaid, universities with affiliated hospitals that receive Medicaid funding will be unable to treat patients or train health care professionals. This loss of funding will lead to belt tightening of all kinds.

We need to stop these attacks on higher education

If we want to stop these attacks on higher education, we need to Get Organized. That means going to a union meeting. It means engaging your co-workers and getting them involved. And it means signing up for PEOPLE or becoming a PEOPLE MVP.

The bigger we are, the more power we have to say working people shouldn't just get by – we demand to thrive.

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