

WHERE DOES THE MONEY GO? THE GEOGRAPHY OF FEDERAL PELL GRANT SPENDING BY CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT



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SETTING THE STAGE

- Signature federal student financial aid program for low-income undergraduate students (Baum, 2015).
 - Differing policy responses to Pell Grant program by White House and Congress (Douglas-Gabriel, 2017).
 - Even with modest increases in Pell maximum, decreased purchasing power for college costs (Cahalan et al., 2017).
-
- Knowledge Need: To understand who benefits from federal financial aid policy.
 - Knowledge Need: To understand the connection between benefitting from federal financial aid policy and supporting such policy.



RESEARCH QUESTIONS



What is the geographic distribution of Federal Pell Grant spending in the United States?

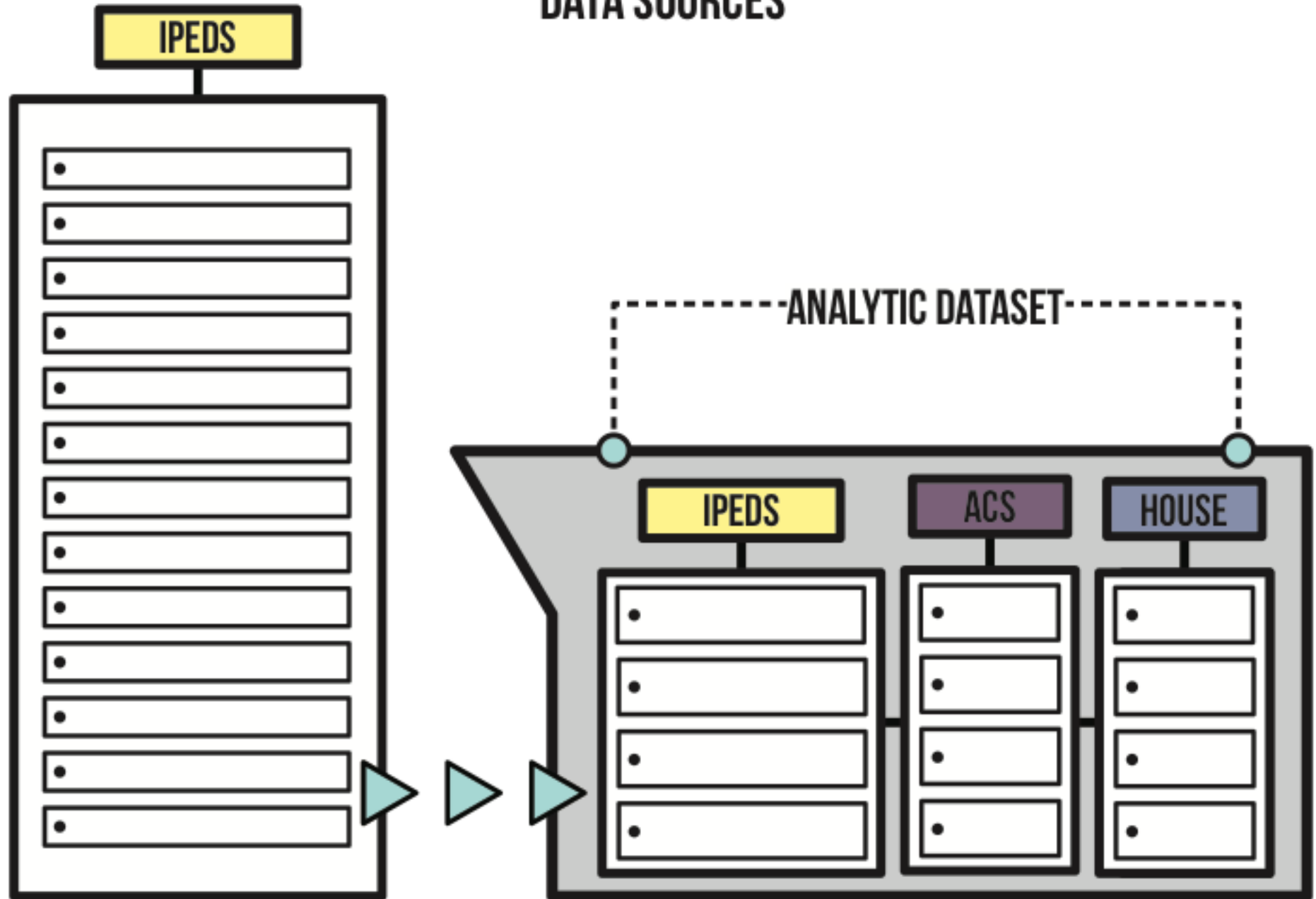


What are the higher education and community characteristics of congressional districts by receipt of Federal Pell Grant dollars?

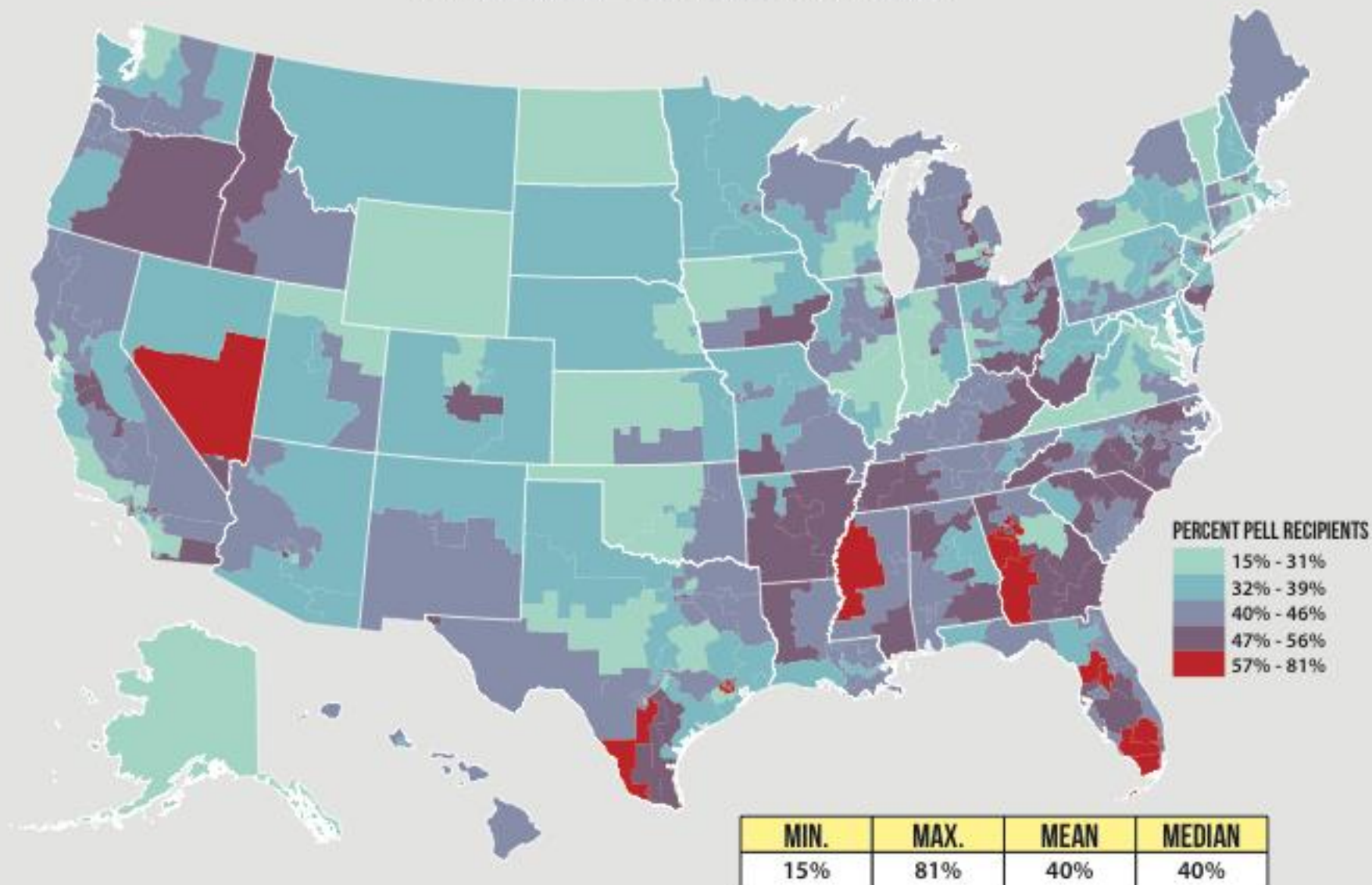


Is there a relationship between Federal Pell Grant receipt by congressional district and legislative activity for the Pell program?

DATA SOURCES



SHARE OF UNDERGRAD PELL GRANT RECIPIENTS BY CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT



TOP 5 CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS FOR SHARE OF UNDERGRAD PELL RECIPIENTS



REP. STEVEN A. HORSFORD



REP. DAVID SCOTT



REP. GENE GREEN



REP. DANIEL WEBSTER



REP. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.



81
percent



74
percent



72
percent

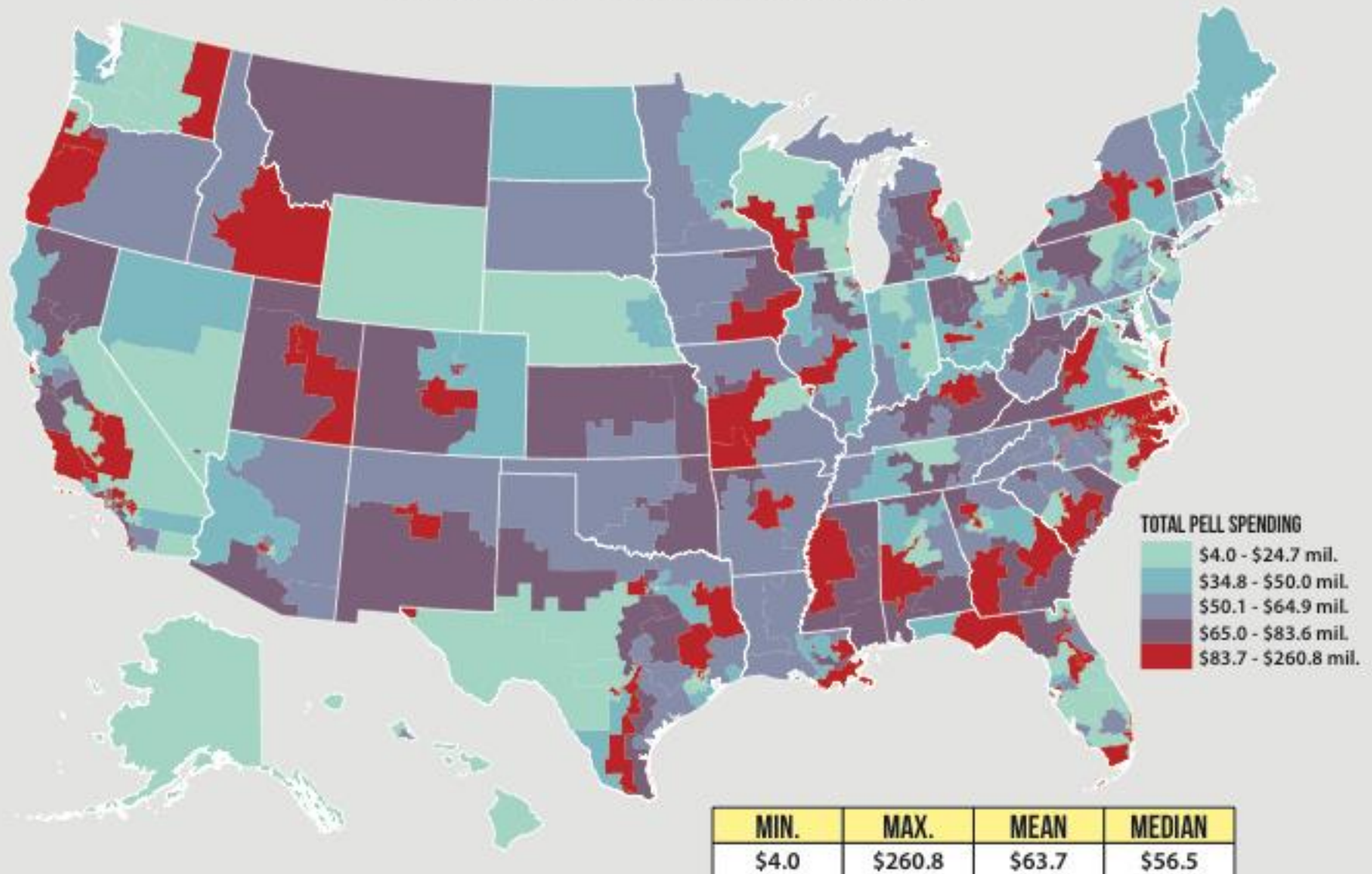


69
percent



68
percent

TOTAL PELL GRANT SPENDING BY CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT



TOP 5 CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS FOR TOTAL PELL GRANT SPENDING



REP. ANDRÉ CARSON



REP. DAVID LOEBSACK



REP. SHEILA JACKSON LEE



REP. JOHN L. MICA



REP. JERROLD NADLER



\$261
million



\$251
million



\$234
million

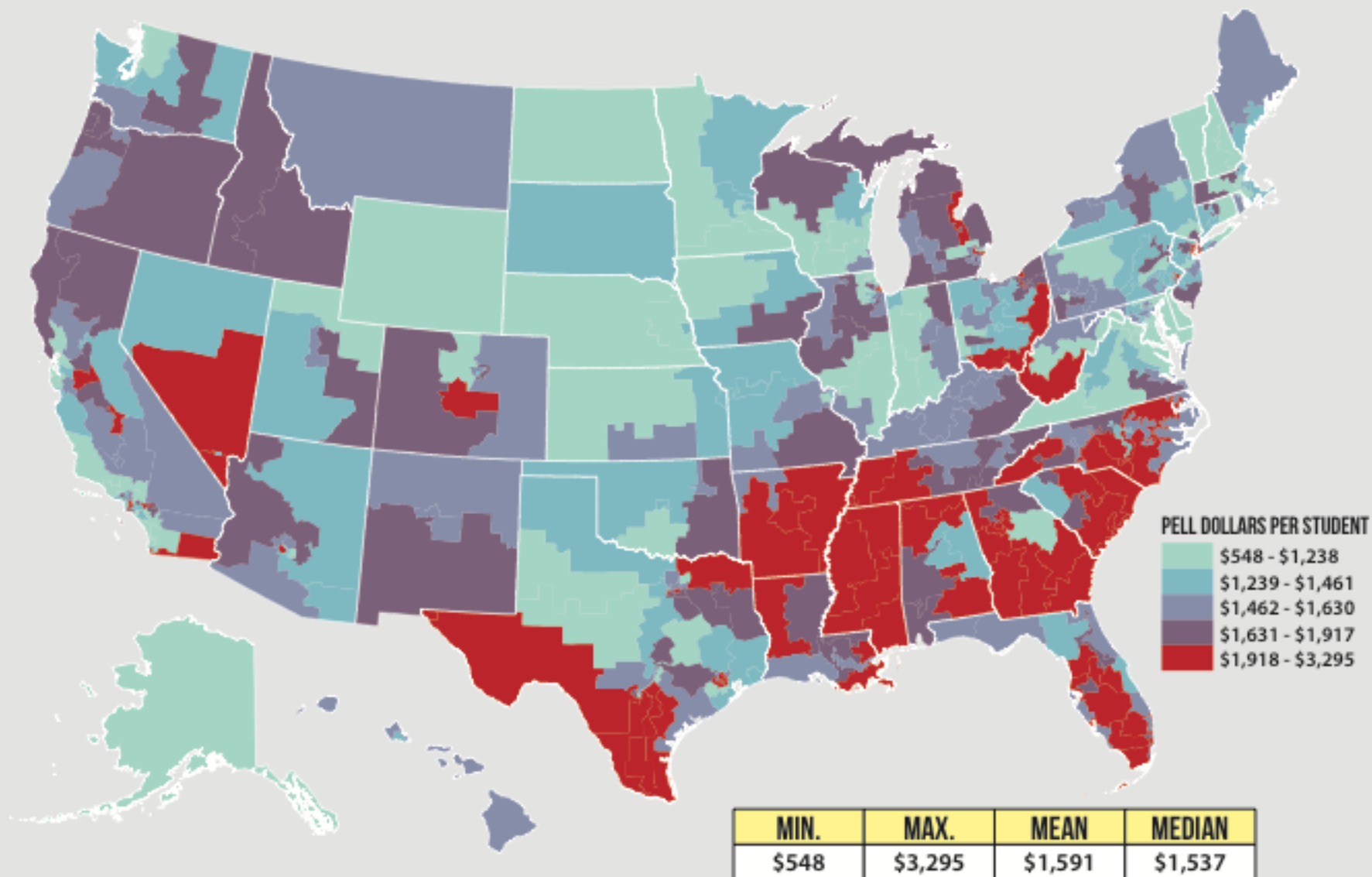


\$197
million



\$197
million

TOTAL PELL GRANT SPENDING PER UNDERGRAD BY CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT



TOP 5 CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS FOR PELL GRANT SPENDING PER UNDERGRAD



REP. GENE GREEN



REP. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.



REP. STEVEN A. HORSFORD



REP. DAVID SCOTT



REP. DANIEL WEBSTER



\$3,295
per student

\$3,223
per student

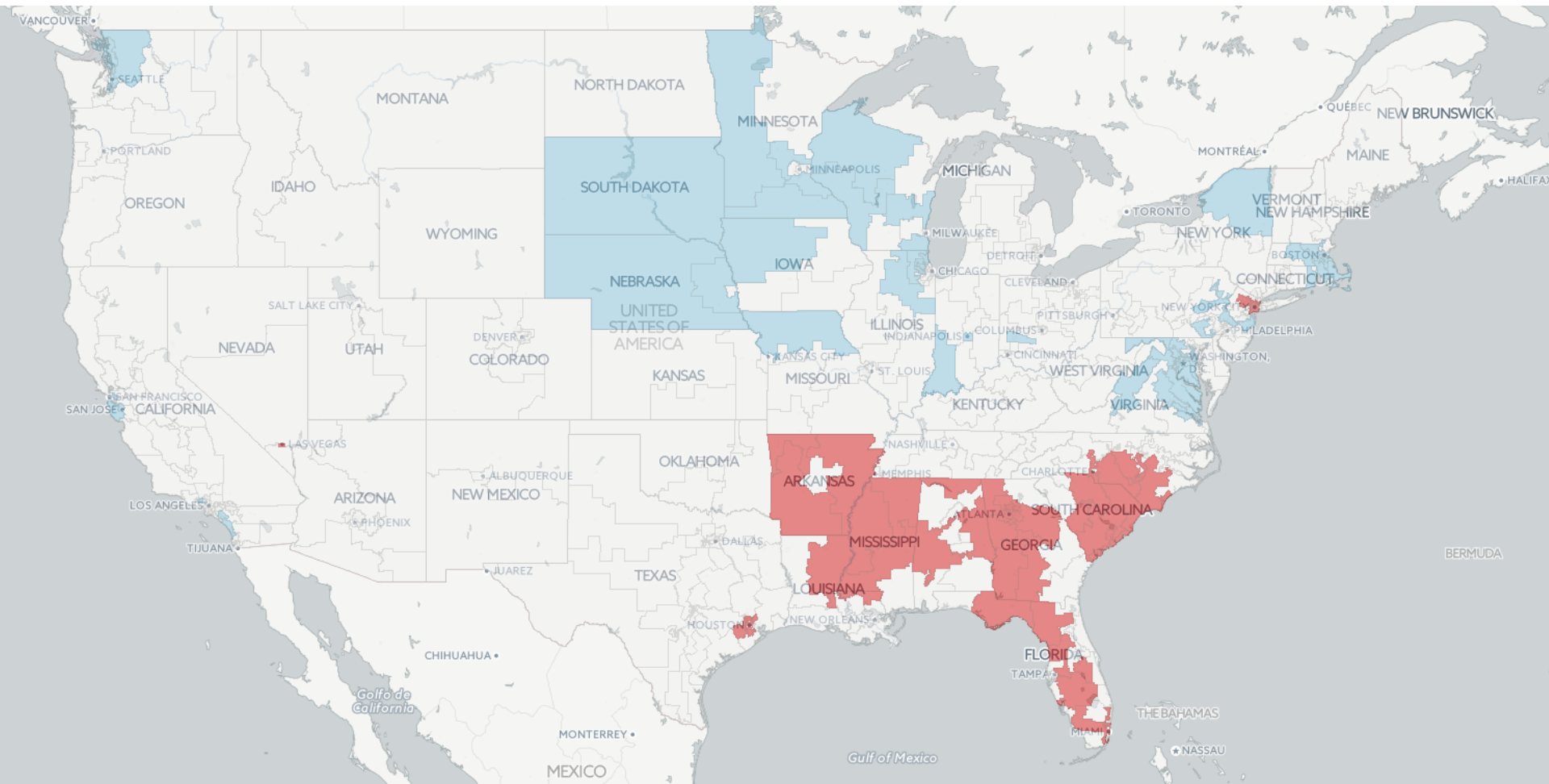
\$3,223
per student

\$3,102
per student

\$3,095
per student

FEDERAL PELL GRANT SPENDING PER UNDERGRAD

HOTSPOT ANALYSIS

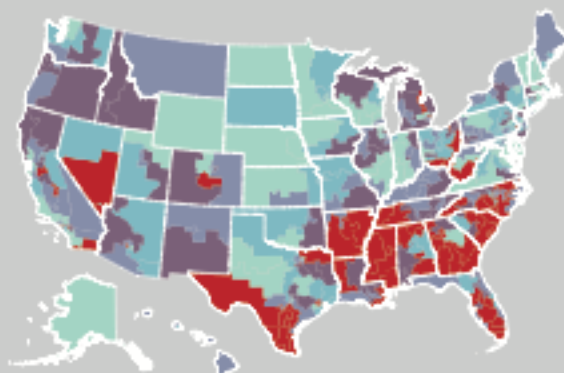




INSTITUTIONAL CHARACTERISTICS

Undergrad Enrollment by Sector

| QUINTILE | PUB 4YR | NFP 4Y | FP 4YR | PUB 2YR | NFP 2YR | FP 2YR | LT 2YR |
|----------|---------|--------|--------|---------|---------|--------|--------|
| Q1 | 38% | 15% | 3% | 40% | 0% | 1% | 2% |
| Q2 | 36% | 16% | 4% | 40% | 0% | 2% | 2% |
| Q3 | 38% | 16% | 4% | 37% | 0% | 2% | 2% |
| Q4 | 38% | 16% | 7% | 35% | 0% | 2% | 2% |
| Q5 | 36% | 11% | 13% | 33% | 0% | 3% | 2% |

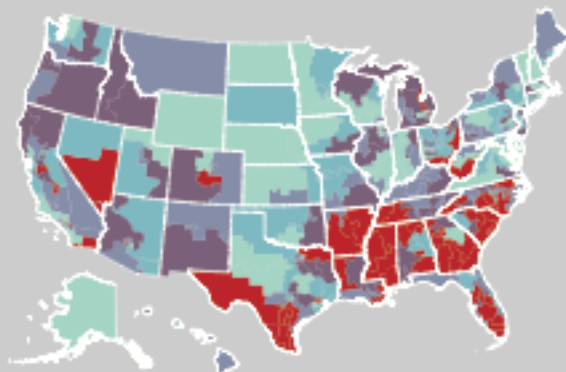




INSTITUTIONAL CHARACTERISTICS

Average Tuition & Open Admission Enrollment

| QUINTILE | PUB 4YR | PUB 2YR | OPEN ADMIT |
|----------|---------|---------|------------|
| Q1 | \$9,427 | \$3,611 | 51% |
| Q2 | \$8,500 | \$3,388 | 51% |
| Q3 | \$8,028 | \$3,673 | 49% |
| Q4 | \$7,113 | \$3,541 | 52% |
| Q5 | \$6,731 | \$3,145 | 54% |

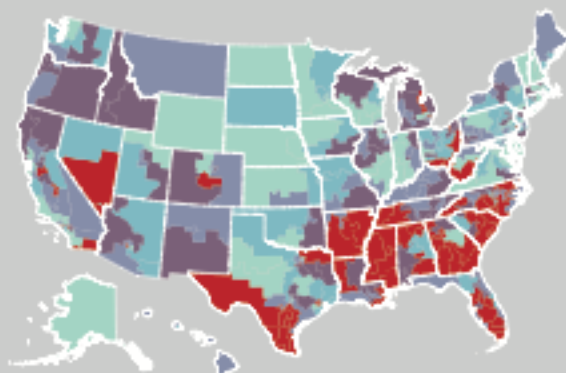




STUDENT CHARACTERISTICS

Gender, Race/Ethnicity, Enrollment Intensity

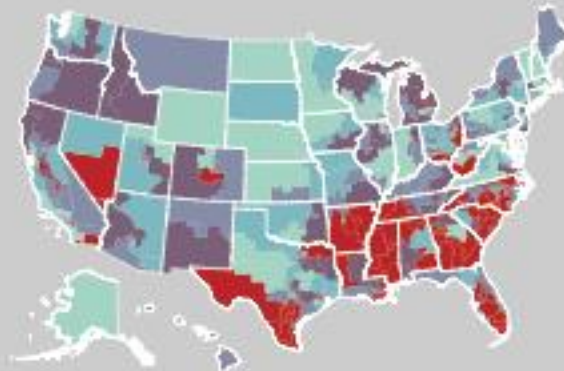
| QUINTILE | % WOMEN | % MEN | % BLACK | % HISPANIC | % ASIAN | % WHITE | FT DG-SEEK |
|----------|---------|-------|---------|------------|---------|---------|------------|
| Q1 | 54% | 46% | 8% | 15% | 8% | 57% | 60% |
| Q2 | 56% | 44% | 11% | 15% | 6% | 55% | 60% |
| Q3 | 56% | 44% | 13% | 13% | 4% | 58% | 63% |
| Q4 | 57% | 43% | 14% | 16% | 5% | 54% | 62% |
| Q5 | 60% | 40% | 25% | 20% | 4% | 40% | 65% |





Poverty, Employment, and Family Income

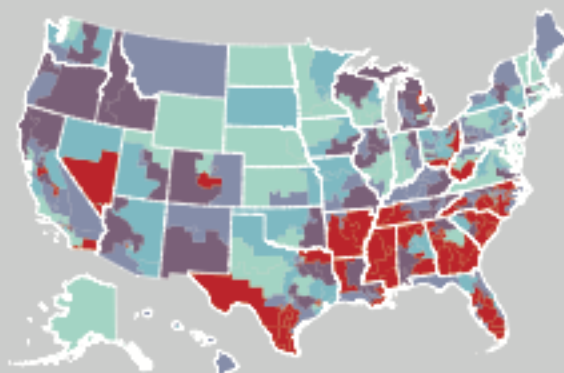
| QUINTILE | CHILD POV | % UNEMPL | MD FAM INC |
|----------|-----------|----------|------------|
| Q1 | 15% | 8% | \$78,279 |
| Q2 | 18% | 9% | \$73,817 |
| Q3 | 21% | 10% | \$65,229 |
| Q4 | 23% | 10% | \$63,216 |
| Q5 | 30% | 12% | \$53,227 |





Education Level of Adults Age 25+

| QUINTILE | LT HS | HS | SOME COL | BACHELOR+ |
|----------|-------|-----|----------|-----------|
| Q1 | 11% | 26% | 29% | 34% |
| Q2 | 12% | 28% | 29% | 32% |
| Q3 | 13% | 29% | 30% | 28% |
| Q4 | 14% | 29% | 30% | 27% |
| Q5 | 20% | 29% | 28% | 23% |

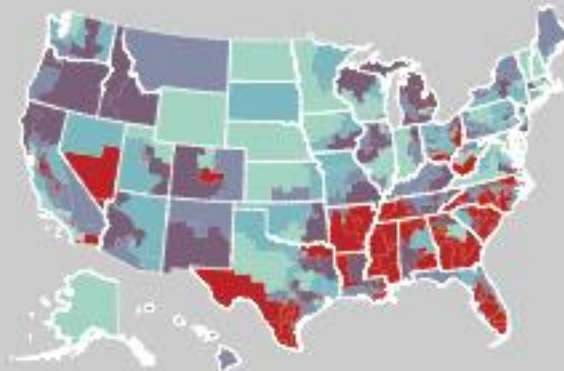




POLITICAL
PARTY

Congressional District Representatives

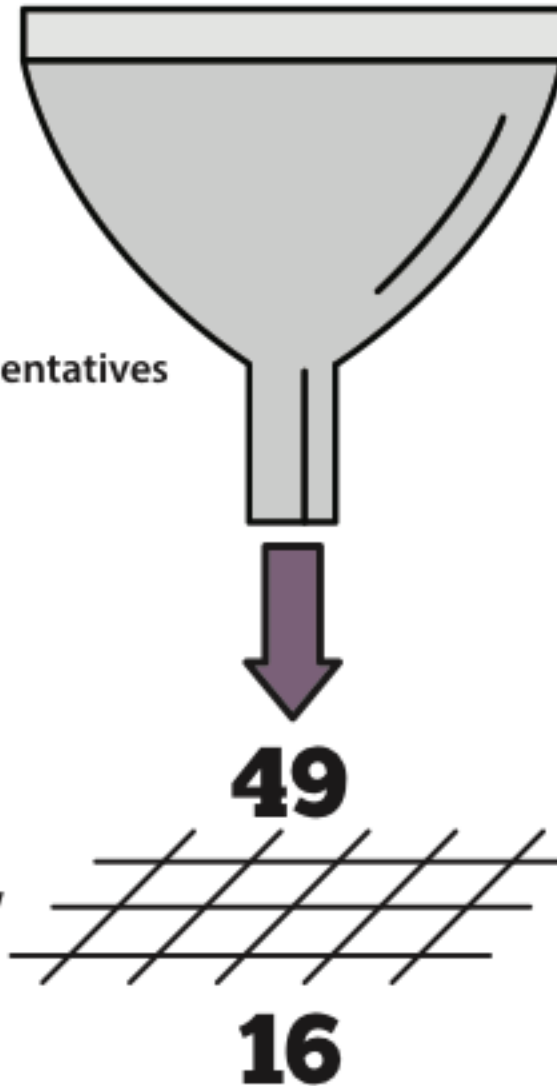
| QUINTILE | % DEM | % REPUB |
|----------|-------|---------|
| Q1 | 50% | 50% |
| Q2 | 46% | 54% |
| Q3 | 39% | 61% |
| Q4 | 40% | 60% |
| Q5 | 56% | 44% |



ANALYTIC STRATEGY

1 Data Source: www.congress.gov

- 2 Inclusion Criteria:
- 113th Congress
 - House of Representatives
 - Legislation
 - Keyword "Pell"



3 Legislation Review

PELL-RELATED LEGISLATION OF THE 113TH CONGRESS

| BILL | TITLE | SPONSOR(S) | AVG QUINT | MIN QUINT | MAX QUINT | % DEM | % REPUB | BIPARTISAN |
|-------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-------|---------|------------|
| H.R.4373 | Pell Grant Protection Act | 21 | 4.0 | 1 | 5 | 100% | 0% | N |
| H.R.2253 | Higher Education and Skills Obtainment Act | 1 | 4.0 | 4 | 4 | 0% | 100% | N |
| H.R.1969 | Children of Fallen Heroes Scholarship Act of 2013 | 7 | 3.9 | 2 | 5 | 43% | 57% | Y |
| H.R.5352 | Pathways Out of Poverty Act of 2014 | 39 | 3.7 | 1 | 5 | 100% | 0% | N |
| H.R.5590 | Go to High School, Go to College Act | 2 | 3.5 | 2 | 5 | 50% | 50% | Y |
| H.R.4612 | Higher Education Reform and Opportunity Act of 2014 | 47 | 3.3 | 1 | 5 | 0% | 100% | N |
| H.R.4902 | Middle Class CHANCE Act | 54 | 3.2 | 1 | 5 | 98% | 2% | Y |
| H.R.1924 | Access to Education and Training Act | 3 | 3.0 | 2 | 4 | 100% | 0% | N |
| H.R.4207 | JOBS Act of 2014 | 1 | 3.0 | 3 | 3 | 100% | 0% | N |
| H.R.4860 | Protecting Students from Failing Institutions Act | 2 | 3.0 | 1 | 5 | 100% | 0% | N |
| H.R.4984 | Empowering Students Through Enhanced Financial Counseling Act | 18 | 2.6 | 1 | 5 | 17% | 83% | Y |
| H.R.3412 | Flexibility to Innovate for College Affordability Act | 2 | 2.5 | 1 | 4 | 50% | 50% | Y |
| H.Amdt.1119 | Amdt. to Empowering Students Through Enhanced Financial Counseling Act | 1 | 1.0 | 1 | 1 | 100% | 0% | N |
| H.R.2880 | Revenue generated from the Direct Loan Program to fund Pell Grant Program | 2 | 1.0 | 1 | 1 | 100% | 0% | N |
| H.R.5394 | Department of Education Elimination Act of 2014 | 1 | 1.0 | 1 | 1 | 0% | 100% | N |
| H.R.5565 | Protect Student Borrowers Act | 1 | 1.0 | 1 | 1 | 100% | 0% | N |

REPRESENTATIVES WITH HIGH PELL LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY

CALIFORNIA 44TH DISTRICT



REP. JANICE HAHN



| TYPE | BILL | TITLE | DATE |
|----------------|----------|-----------------------------------------|---------|
| Orig Cosponsor | H.R.4373 | Pell Grant Protection Act | 4/2/14 |
| Sponsor | H.R.4860 | Protecting Students from Failing Insts. | 6/12/14 |
| Cosponsor | H.R.4902 | Middle Class CHANCE Act | 6/19/14 |
| Orig Cosponsor | H.R.5352 | Pathways Out of Poverty Act of 2014 | 7/31/14 |

LOUISIANA 2ND DISTRICT



REP. CEDRIC L. RICHMOND



| TYPE | BILL | TITLE | DATE |
|----------------|----------|-------------------------------------|---------|
| Sponsor | H.R.4207 | JOBS Act of 2014 | 3/11/14 |
| Orig Cosponsor | H.R.4373 | Pell Grant Protection Act | 4/2/14 |
| Orig Cosponsor | H.R.4902 | Middle Class CHANCE Act | 6/19/14 |
| Orig Cosponsor | H.R.5352 | Pathways Out of Poverty Act of 2014 | 7/31/14 |

REPRESENTATIVES WITH HIGH PELL LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY

NEW YORK 9TH DISTRICT



REP. YVETTE D. CLARKE



| TYPE | BILL | TITLE | DATE |
|----------------|----------|-------------------------------------|---------|
| Orig Cosponsor | H.R.4373 | Pell Grant Protection Act | 4/2/14 |
| Orig Cosponsor | H.R.4902 | Middle Class CHANCE Act | 6/19/14 |
| Orig Cosponsor | H.R.4902 | Pathways Out of Poverty Act of 2014 | 7/31/14 |

OHIO 11TH DISTRICT



REP. MARCIA L. FUDGE



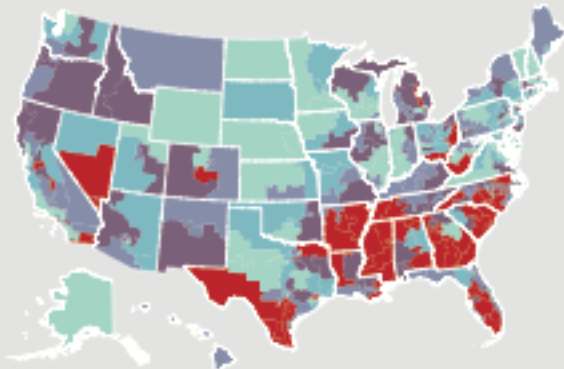
| TYPE | BILL | TITLE | DATE |
|----------------|----------|--------------------------------------|---------|
| Orig Cosponsor | H.R.4373 | Pell Grant Protection Act | 4/2/14 |
| Orig Cosponsor | H.R.5352 | Pathways Out of Poverty Act of 2014 | 7/31/14 |
| Sponsor | H.R.5590 | Go to High School, Go to College Act | 9/18/14 |

PELL LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY BY QUINTILE



Pell Legislative Activity by Pell Receipt Quintile

| QUINTILE | TOTAL | # ACTIVE | % ACTIVE |
|----------|-------|----------|----------|
| Q1 | 88 | 30 | 34% |
| Q2 | 87 | 23 | 26% |
| Q3 | 87 | 32 | 37% |
| Q4 | 87 | 29 | 33% |
| Q5 | 87 | 45 | 52% |



PELL LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY BY POLITICAL PARTY



Active Legislators in the Top Quintile of Pell Grant Spending per Undergrad

| TOTAL REPS | TOTAL DEMS | % DEMS | TOTAL REPUBS | % REPUBS |
|------------|------------|--------|--------------|----------|
| 45 | 32 | 71% | 13 | 29% |

Inactive Legislators in the Top Quintile of Pell Grant Spending per Undergrad

| TOTAL REPS | TOTAL DEMS | % DEMS | TOTAL REPUBS | % REPUBS |
|------------|------------|--------|--------------|----------|
| 42 | 17 | 40% | 25 | 60% |

CONCLUSIONS AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS

- Unequal geographic distribution of Pell Grant spending across the United States; warranted given the geographic variation in higher education and community characteristics.
 - Descriptive evidence that Pell Grants are targeted toward economically disadvantaged districts with low postsecondary attainment.
 - Association between financial benefit of the Federal Pell Grant program and legislative activity.
 - Differences in legislative support for Pell Grant program by political parties.
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- Spatial regression analysis to understand simultaneous relationships between localized characteristics and Pell Grant spending.
 - Exploring other measures of “support” for Federal Pell Grant program.



CONTACT



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PennAHEAD
Alliance for Higher Education and Democracy