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In Kentucky, We've Spent Years Growing Talent — Only to Have Washington Slam the Door

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While the nation was distracted by headlines about [celebrity trials](#) and [summer storms](#), a seismic shift occurred in American education policy: The U.S. Department of Education was effectively gutted by President Donald Trump's so-called One Big Beautiful Bill Act.

[Billed as a move to return power to the states](#), this legislation dismantles the infrastructure of federal student aid, guts Pell Grants, halts income-driven repayment programs and eliminates Public Service Loan Forgiveness. The Pell Grants program is a lifeline for low-income students that covers up to roughly \$7,400 annually, but still leaves significant unmet need.

The implications of these changes are catastrophic — and not just for students. This law represents a total abandonment of education as a public good, and the consequences will be felt in every community, including right here in Kentucky, where the median household income is just \$58,000 and more than 40% of college students depend on federal aid.