

**Statement for the Record from
REPRESENTATIVE GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO SABLAN**

**Committee on Education and the Workforce
Full Committee Markup:**

**"H.R. 6655, A Stronger Workforce for America Act, H.R. 6585, Bipartisan
Workforce Pell Act, H.J. Res. 98, and H.R. 3400, Small Businesses before
Bureaucrats Act"**

**Tuesday, December 12, 2023
10:15 a.m.**

**Representative Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan (D-MP)
Statement in support of H.R. 6585, *Bipartisan Workforce Pell Act***

I rise in support of H.R. 6585, the *Bipartisan Workforce Pell Act*. This legislation would expand pathways to career advancement and economic mobility for low-income individuals by allowing Pell Grants to support students enrolled in high-quality, short-term education programs.

This Congress, the Committee has heard from multiple expert witnesses on the need for improved access to postsecondary educational opportunities that can meet employers' demands for a skilled workforce. H.R. 6585 answers this growing need. And the legislation includes robust quality assurance measures, ensuring that both students and taxpayers see a positive return on investment.

Expanding federal financial aid to short-term programs would be transformational for low-income students in my district, the Northern Mariana Islands, which is one of only two U.S. jurisdictions without a four-year university. As such, the improved educational access that the bill makes possible is especially impactful for Marianas students – the majority of whom live below the federal poverty line and cannot afford to leave our islands in pursuit of a four-year degree elsewhere.

Members of this Committee – on both sides of the aisle – have worked tirelessly to come up with the much-needed investments in our workforce included in H.R. 6585. Now is the time to advance this legislation, expanding access to postsecondary education for low-income students in the Marianas and across the nation who would otherwise be unable to afford it. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 6585.