

www.usatoday.com



A better
Life

House votes to increase Pell Grant

College students from low- and middle-income families Wednesday moved closer to getting the first increase in direct federal aid in five years. The House of Representatives voted 286-140 in favor of passing the Fiscal Year 2007 federal budget, which would increase the maximum Pell Grant award by \$260, to \$4,310. The Senate is expected to vote next week. Pell Grants are the federal government's primary need-based student-aid program. They benefit about 5 million students a year, most of whom are from families with incomes less than \$40,000, the American Council on Education says.

By Michelle Healy from staff and wire reports
E-mail betterlife@usatoday.com