

September 28, 2015

Senator Lamar Alexander
Chairman
Committee on Health, Education, Labor
and Pensions
428 Senate Dirksen Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Patty Murray
Ranking Member
Committee on Health, Education, Labor
and Pensions
428 Senate Dirksen Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Alexander and Ranking Member Murray:

On behalf of the organizations listed below, representing the full spectrum of American higher education, we write to urge you to pass legislation that would extend the Perkins Loan program.

As you well know, the Perkins Loan program is set to expire on October 1. Bipartisan legislation has been introduced in the House that would provide a one-year extension of the program's authority. This would allow policymakers to consider fully the merits of the program within the context of the ongoing reauthorization of the Higher Education Act. Such an extension is a necessary step to ensure that the over 500,000 students who received an average loan of \$2,000 this year are not unduly harmed next year.

The approach taken by the House offsets the cost of the extension in such a way that the savings are derived from the program itself, without reducing the benefits to borrowers. This thoughtful approach ensures that the interests of both students and taxpayers are protected until Congress has the opportunity to examine the full range of policy options for the federal financial aid programs.

We ask you to pass legislation, as the House has proposed, that would guarantee that the future of the Perkins Loans program is determined through careful debate, and not as the result of an arbitrary deadline. We look forward to working with you and your colleagues to extend the Perkins Loans program.

Sincerely,



Molly Corbett Broad
President

Perkins Loans Extension
September 28, 2015

On behalf of:

American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers
American Association of Community Colleges
American Association of State Colleges and Universities
American Council on Education
Association of American Universities
Association of Community College Trustees
Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges
Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities
Association of Public and Land-grant Universities
College and University Professional Association for Human Resources
Council for Christian Colleges and Universities
Council for Higher Education Accreditation
Council for Opportunity in Education
Council of Graduate Schools
EDUCAUSE
National Association of College and University Business Officers
National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities
National Association of Student Personnel Administrators
UNCF