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September 27, 2017

Senator Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
317 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington DC 20510

Senator Charles Schumer  
Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
322 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington DC 20510

Dear Leaders McConnell and Schumer,

On behalf of the higher education associations listed below, I write you with an urgent request to bring S. 1808 , the Federal Perkins Loan Program Extension Act of 2017 to the floor for a vote this week. This legislation was introduced with bipartisan support and a similar extension was passed by unanimous consent in both chambers two years ago.

We realize this is an unusual request, but the circumstances require it, as the Perkins Loan program is set to expire on September 30<sup>th</sup>. Allowing the program to expire without any alternative in place will mean half a million students struggling to fund their college educations.

This legislation would simply provide a two-year extension of the program to ensure that there is sufficient time to address the program in a comprehensive manner through the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act.

Thank you for considering this request.

Sincerely,

Ted Mitchell  
President

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

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Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities

Council for Christian Colleges & Universities

Council for Opportunity in Education

Council of Graduate Schools

Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities

EDUCAUSE

NASPA - Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education

National Council for Community and Education Partnerships

National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education

National Association of College and University Business Officers

National Association of Independent Colleges & Universities

National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators

Thurgood Marshall College Fund

UNCF