

July 18, 2017

United States Congress  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator/Representative:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, we urge you to oppose eliminating the Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) program as the Trump/DeVos fiscal year 2018 education budget proposal would do.

Part of the bipartisan College Cost Reduction Act of 2007, PSLF was created to encourage talented people to pursue careers as educators, firefighters, nurses, public defenders, and other forms of public service that typically pay less than private sector careers. As a result, it can be difficult to attract qualified people, especially in underserved rural, urban, and tribal communities.

Under PSLF, federal student debt is wiped away after 120 on-time, qualifying monthly payments — 10 years' worth of payments. The numbers tell the story of the program's success: more than half a million people have enrolled over the last decade.

Loan forgiveness not only makes public service affordable, it demonstrates that America values the skills and commitment of the people who provide essential public services. Without PSLF, community life all across America would suffer. We urge you to build on the success of this vitally important program, not eliminate it.

Thank you for considering our views.

AccessLex Institute  
American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education  
American Association of University Women (AAUW)  
American Dance Therapy Association  
American Federation of Teachers  
American Music Therapy Association  
American School Counselor Association  
Association of Education Service Agencies  
Communications Workers of America  
Consumer Action  
Council for Opportunity in Education  
Faith in Florida  
Florida Consumer Action Network  
Higher Ed, Not Debt  
Higher Education Consortium for Special Education (HECSE)

Higher Education Loan Coalition  
Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities  
International Association of Fire Fighters  
International Federation of Professional and Technical Engineers (IFPTE)  
League of United Latin American Citizens  
Maryland Consumer Rights Coalition  
Metal Trades Department, AFL-CIO  
National Association for College Admission Counseling  
National Association of School Psychologists  
National Association of State Student Grant and Aid Programs (NASSGAP)  
National Center for Transgender Equality  
National College Access Network  
National Council for Community and Education Partnerships  
National Council of Asian Pacific Americans (NCAPA)  
National Council of La Raza (NCLR)  
National Education Association  
National Employment Law Project  
National Federation of Federal Employees  
National Indian Education Association  
National Science Teachers Association  
One Wisconsin Now  
Progress Virginia  
Public Advocacy for Kids  
Public Higher Education Network of Massachusetts  
Rural School and Community Trust  
School Social Work Association of America  
Service Employees International Union  
Student Debt Crisis  
Teach For America  
Teach Plus  
Teacher Education Division of the Council for Exceptional Children  
The Alliance for Youth Action  
The American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees  
The Council on Social Work Education  
The National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (NASFAA)  
UNCF  
United University Professions  
US Student Association  
Veterans Education Success  
Young Invincibles