

December 11, 2017

Chairwoman Virginia Foxx
Ranking Member Robert C. Scott
Committee on Education and the Workforce
U.S. House of Representatives
2176 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Foxx and Committee Members:

The undersigned organizations write to oppose the HEA reauthorization bill in its current form. By eliminating the Public Service Loan Forgiveness program (PSLF), the bill would cut off our ability to successfully recruit and retain top talent for vital public service positions across the country.

PSLF serves as a tool to attract and retain talented individuals to work in critical jobs within their communities – as educators, firefighters, police officers, librarians, nurses, social workers, veterinarians, prosecutors, state and local government employees, and so many other professions. College and often graduate degrees are increasingly a requirement for many of these public service professions, but this investment in higher education leaves our public servants saddled with student debt.

Thanks to PSLF, following ten years of qualifying public service work as well as ongoing monthly loan repayments, our public service professionals can earn forgiveness on their remaining loans. PSLF is a valuable program that enables motivated and service-minded individuals to pursue careers in public service across our country because this program ensures that a long-term public service career is financially viable.

Without PSLF, student debt and loan repayment programs that extend well beyond ten years would serve as significant barriers to public service because this debt would compel qualified professionals to pursue work in the private sector rather than in a lower paying public service position. Public service employers, in both urban and rural areas, would have increased difficulty recruiting and retaining high-quality, talented employees.

We urge you to preserve PSLF for current and future generations. Eliminating PSLF negatively affects the health and well-being of our society and deprives many Americans of the services we need in our schools, hospitals, courtrooms, and neighborhoods.

The PSLF program is a treasured investment in our nation's values of public service and community involvement. We ask that you preserve it. Thank you for your consideration.

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American Association of Veterinary Medical Colleges

American Dance Therapy Association

American Library Association

American Medical Student Association
American Psychological Association
American Veterinary Medical Association
Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges
Association of School Business Officials International
Council of Administrators of Special Education
Council of Graduate Schools
Council on Social Work Education
Equal Justice Works
Learning Disabilities Association of America
Legal Aid at Work
Loan Repayment Assistance Program of Minnesota
Ohio Association of Community Health Centers
National Association for College Admission Counseling
National Association of Secondary School Principals
National Association of Social Workers
National Education Association
National Legal Aid & Defender Association
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Tufts Medical Center Physicians Organization
Virtua Health
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