

December 12, 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 support the amendment offered by Representative Joe Courtney to protect the Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) program under the proposed HEA reauthorization bill.

This amendment would protect PSLF, ensuring the program continues to serve as an important 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 professionals. This program is especially important to veterans, who often complete their education at an older age and have greater family obligations when they enter the civilian workforce and therefore may be unable to continue in public service without loan forgiveness.

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 for-profit private sector rather than in the lower paying public service positions.

We urge you to preserve PSLF by voting in favor of Mr. Courtney's amendment. This amendment ensures that PSLF will continue attracting future public servants to serve our great nation. In addition, the amendment would enable military and veterans service organizations that offer a wide array of critical services to veterans, military families, and survivors, to recruit more graduates to provide those services. Further, the amendment recognizes that young farmers are the future of our rural communities, and gives them the opportunity to participate in the PSLF program.

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

AFSCME

American Association of University Women

American Council on Education

American Psychological Association

American Veterinary Medical Association

Association of American Medical Colleges

Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges

Association of School Business Offices International

Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health

CalNonprofits

Committee for Public Counsel Services, Massachusetts

Disability Rights Oregon

Equal Justice Works

Loan Repayment Assistance Program of Minnesota

Md. Coalition Against Sexual Assault Sexual Assault Legal Institute

National Association for College Admission Counseling

National Association of Secondary School Principals

National Association of Social Workers

Navigate, LLC

The Civil Service Bar Association