

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

December 12, 2017

The Honorable Virginia Foxx
Chairwoman
House Committee on Education and the Workforce
2176 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Robert C. "Bobby" Scott
Ranking Member
House Committee on Education and the Workforce
2101 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Foxx and Ranking Member Scott:

As you know, the Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) program provides debt forgiveness to qualifying applicants who have completed 120 on-time, qualifying payments during full-time public service employment. This debt relief enables students to pursue careers that are integral to the health and well-being of our communities, including teachers, nurses, firefighters, police, and so many other public servants across the country. Without PSLF, the combination of student debt and low wages could create a barrier to entry into these professions; therefore, the PSLF program is critical to workforce retention in these fields.

Enacted in 2007 under President George W. Bush to inspire more graduates to enter public service, the PSLF program is now seeing its first applicants granted debt forgiveness. Yet, little is publicly known about this process or program participation rates. Thus far, only twelve individuals are considered on track to earn forgiveness in the near future, so Congress has plenty of time to evaluate the program at virtually no cost.

It is our understanding that H.R. 4508, the PROSPER Act, would end this important program in 2019 for borrowers entering new courses of study and for all borrowers in 2024. As members of the bipartisan Public Service Loan Forgiveness Caucus in the House of Representatives, we urge the Committee to refrain from restricting access to the program until more is known about its participation rates, benefits to employers and participants, and impact on the federal budget.

We appreciate your attention to this request.

Sincerely,



Ryan A. Costello
Member of Congress



Brendan F. Boyle
Member of Congress



Brian Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress



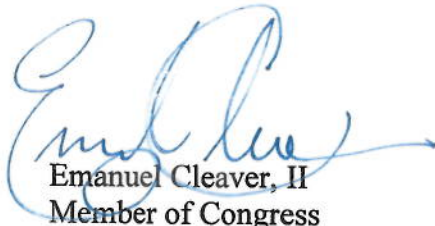
John P. Sarbanes
Member of Congress



Rodney Davis
Member of Congress



Julia Brownley
Member of Congress



Emanuel Cleaver, II
Member of Congress



Peter DeFazio
Member of Congress



John K. Delaney
Member of Congress



Patrick Meehan
Member of Congress



David B. McKinley, P.E.
Member of Congress



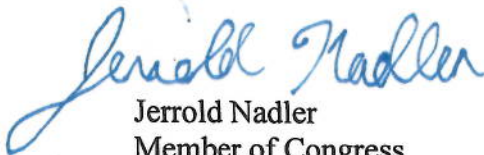
Mark Takano
Member of Congress



Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Member of Congress



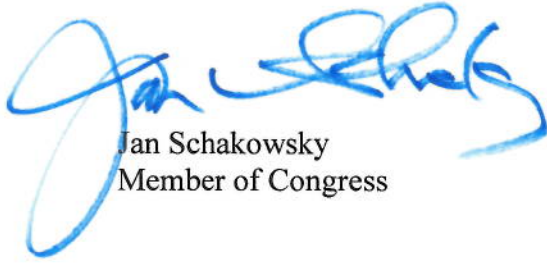
Joe Courtney
Member of Congress



Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress



Steve Cohen
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Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress



Lucille Roybal-Allard
Member of Congress



Alan Lowenthal
Member of Congress



David N. Cicilline
Member of Congress



Jerry McNerney
Member of Congress



James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



Hakeem Jeffries
Member of Congress