

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