

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 14, 2020

The Honorable Betsy DeVos
Secretary of Education
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington DC 20202

Dear Secretary DeVos,

We write to express our support and appreciation for the efforts the Department of Education has taken to alleviate struggling student loan borrowers amid this national emergency. The measures your agency has taken to create flexibility for student loan borrowers are commendable, as the financial hardships associated with the coronavirus outbreak continue to exacerbate the impact of already burdensome student loan debt.

The recent directives to delay student loan payments and waive interest accrual are necessary and important steps as we develop holistic solutions to protect our nation from the economic uncertainty that manifests from this public health emergency. To complement these efforts and maximize their efficacy, it is crucial we also provide clear guidance for borrowers.

As you begin the process of notifying student borrowers on the temporary measures, we urge you to include information regarding the Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) program. The PSLF program provides relief for our first responders, public health nurses, and others who work on the frontlines of this pandemic. After 10 years of successful payments, these public servants are eligible for loan forgiveness. We must ensure they are aware that merely complying with the student loan deferment regulations does not jeopardize their qualification for PSLF.

Collectively, we respectfully request that as you notify borrowers of the new regulations regarding student loan payments, you include information outlining the PSLF qualifications and reassure these student loan borrowers that these temporary measures will not impact their eligibility for PSLF.

Thank you for considering this request and we look forward to working with you to protect our student borrowers as this pandemic ensues.

Sincerely,



Brendan F. Boyle
Member of Congress



Brian Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress



Katie Porter
Member of Congress

Cosigning Members:

Brian Higgins
Mike Kelly
Bill Foster
Jim Himes
Eric Swalwell

Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Conor Lamb
Jimmy Panetta
John Yarmuth
Emanuel Cleaver, II

Debbie Dingell
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