



Coalition of Higher Education Assistance Organizations
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February 6, 2008

The Honorable George Miller
Chairman
Committee on Education and the Workforce
U.S. House of Representatives
2181 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Miller,

The members of the Coalition of Higher Education Assistance Organizations wish to express our thanks for your inclusion in H.R. 4137, the College Opportunity and Affordability Act of 2008, of a reauthorization of the Perkins Loan Program as well as several extremely important improvements to the program that will help ensure Perkins will continue its mission of helping make higher education possible for future generations of students.

Since it was created in 1958 as the National Defense Student Loan Program, the low-cost Perkins Loan Program has helped millions of American students pay for their higher education. Today, the Perkins Loan Program is needed more than ever to provide the lowest-cost loans to students who have unmet financial need.

COHEAO strongly supports the bill's amendments to the Perkins Loan program, including the reauthorization of the Program, the increase to \$350 million in the authorization for the annual Federal Capital Contribution, the limitations on the ability of the Department of Education to arbitrarily reduce funds available in the program for student lending, the loan limit increases, increased disclosures to borrowers, and several important technical amendments that will make the program operate more efficiently.

Again, COHEAO thanks you for this legislation and looks forward to it becoming law.

Sincerely,

Alisa Abadinsky
President