

CAMPAIGN FOR COLLEGE AFFORDABILITY

WWW.COLLEGEAFFORDABILITYNOW.ORG

July 21, 2009

Dear Members of the House Committee on Education and Labor,

We, the participating organizations within the Campaign for College Affordability, wish to express our support for the Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2009, which represents an extraordinary reinvestment in higher education that will assist students across the nation in achieving affordable access to college.

Millions of students and their families stand to benefit from a number of the provisions in this legislation.

- Pell grant recipients will receive an increase in their grant award, and will have the assurance that their grants will increase with the cost of living.
- Interest rates on subsidized student loans would be lowered, making loans more affordable to students in need.
- Perkins loans will be available to students who qualify on every college campus in the nation.
- The FAFSA will be simplified to make applying for federal financial aid an easier process.
- Community colleges will receive additional funding to help these institutions better serve their communities.

One provision of the legislation that is of concern for our organizations is the proposed elimination of subsidized graduate student loans that would take place in 2015. Elimination of this student loan program would close the doors to many graduate students who rely on these loans to further their education and contribute more to society through their chosen career fields. In a time when we are amplifying support for undergraduate education, it is critical that we maintain support for our graduate loan programs to ensure that the thousands of graduate students who rely on the subsidized student loan support are able to further their studies and complete their education.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this letter.

Sincerely,

AFL-CIO
Campaign for America's Future
Campus Progress Action
Demos
National Consumers League
National Education Association
Rock the Vote
USAction
United States Student Association