

July, 2005

Honorable John Boehner  
Chairman  
Committee on Education and  
the Workforce  
U. S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D. C. 20515

Honorable George Miller  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Education and  
the Workforce  
U. S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Chairman Boehner and Ranking Member Miller:

As your Committee begins to consider the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act and reconciliation instructions under the Budget Resolution, we urge you to reject the Administration's proposal to terminate the Perkins Loan program and recall \$6 billion in federal capital contributions to the Perkins revolving loan funds by nearly 1,800 colleges. Attaining a college education will become exponentially more difficult for the more than 630,000 students who received Perkins Loans last year as well as for hundreds of thousands of future students if we fail to maintain this critical program.

The Perkins Loan program has operated effectively for nearly 50 years, providing financial assistance to more than 10 million students. Perkins Loans are available for undergraduate, graduate, and professional studies and include important loan forgiveness provisions critical to addressing national needs in the areas of teaching, nursing, and public safety. Colleges and universities administer the loans and make institutional contributions to the revolving loan funds.

Perkins recipients have always known—and quite frankly expected—their repayment to help future students. At a time when the cost of higher education is rapidly increasing and other forms of financial aid are becoming more difficult to obtain, we strongly urge you to reject any proposal to terminate the vital Perkins Loan program.

Sincerely,

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Nita Lowey  
Member of Congress

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Henry Cuellar  
Member of Congress