



April 30, 2009

The Honorable Vernon J. Ehlers
U.S. House of Representatives
2182 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Ehlers:

On behalf of the 3,000 financial aid offices that the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (NASFAA) represents, I am writing to thank you for introducing H.R. 1615, the Medical Economic Deferment for Students (MEDS) Act.

As you know, H.R. 1615 retains the current debt-to-income ratio pathway (also known as 20/220) for borrowers to qualify for an economic hardship deferment in both the FFEL and Direct Loan programs that is scheduled to end on July 1, 2009. Passage of your legislation will ensure this economic hardship deferment is available to student borrowers and 20/220 is vitally important for borrowers pursuing careers in the health professions, especially medical students. This is not the time to increase loan burdens on these individuals who seek to provide quality medical services to our citizenry.

I want you to know that NASFAA fully supports H.R. 1615 and we stand ready to provide whatever assistance you may need to quickly pass this legislation.

Sincerely,

Dr. Philip R. Day, Jr.
NASFAA President and CEO

Opening Doors of Educational Opportunity