

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4704

June 29, 2016

Mr. Justin Draeger, President
Mr. Dan Mann, National Chair
National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators
1101 Connecticut Avenue NW, Suite 1100
Washington, DC 20036

Dear 2016 NASFAA National Conference Attendees:

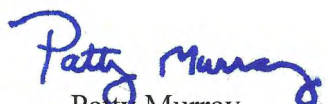
I want to congratulate the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (NASFAA) for 50 years of education, research, and advocacy to promote student access and success in higher education. NASFAA has demonstrated a strong commitment to helping all students regardless of their background and to opening doors of educational opportunity across the nation. I am thankful for your service and work to provide students with the resources they need to pay for college, complete their degrees, and gain a foothold into the middle class.

NASFAA's work to improve the financial aid process has led to many important policy changes during its distinguished history. Just last year, I joined my colleagues in calling for administrative action to allow for the use of prior-year tax information on the FAFSA, a change long-advocated by NASFAA. Thankfully, the Obama Administration's decision to implement "Early FAFSA" will allow millions of students to receive their financial aid estimates earlier and will reduce the burden of verifying their tax information. And just as it has in the past, NASFAA will serve as an essential resource to you during this moment of transition for the financial aid process.

I look forward to working with my colleagues on the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee to reauthorize the Higher Education Act. As professionals working daily with our nation's college students to help them navigate the complicated task of paying for higher education, your on-the-ground feedback in the legislative process will continue to be critically important. Students and families face growing anxiety about the ever-increasing price of higher education and their ability to take on rising levels of student debt. It is crucial that we work together to refine and protect the student aid programs so that more students from all walks of life have the opportunity to further their education.

I look forward to continuing to work alongside NASFAA to simplify the financial aid process, help more students earn their degree, and make higher education more accessible and affordable for all those who seek it. I wish NASFAA a heartfelt congratulations on its 50th anniversary, and thank you for everything you do every day for our students.

Sincerely,


Patty Murray
United States Senator