

November 13, 2017

Dear Members of Congress:

The undersigned organizations write to urge that you preserve the Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) program. This program, enacted with bipartisan support during the Bush Administration, has given Americans from every region of the country the ability to take and remain in critically needed public service jobs, including those in underserved communities.

College or graduate degrees are increasingly a prerequisite for employment. The debt that students incur in obtaining those degrees often compels them to work in the private sector rather than in lower-paying public service positions. As a result, public service employers, in both urban and rural areas, have difficulty recruiting and retaining talented employees.

By forgiving the remaining student loan debt of persons who have served ten years in qualifying public service employment and made consistent payments on their eligible student loans, PSLF creates incentives for motivated and committed individuals to pursue careers in public service. The program has become an important tool for attracting and retaining talented individuals to work in critical jobs within their communities – as educators, firefighters, police officers, librarians, nurses, social workers, veterinarians, prosecutors, state and local government employees, and so many other professionals.

Eliminating PSLF would result in fewer individuals pursuing careers that are integral to the health and well-being of our society and would deprive many Americans of the services they need in their schools, hospitals, courtrooms and neighborhoods.

The PSLF program is an investment in our nation's values of public service and community involvement. We ask that you preserve it. Thank you for your consideration.

AccessLex Institute

Advocates for Children of New York

Alliance for Justice

American Association of Colleges of Nursing

American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine

American Association of State Colleges and Universities

American Association of University Women

American Council on Education

American Dance Therapy Association

American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees

American Federation of Teachers

American Library Association

American Medical Student Association (AMSA)

American Psychological Association
American Veterinary Medical Association
Association of American Law Schools
Association of American Medical Colleges
Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges
Association of School Business Officials International
Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health
Brooklyn Defender Services
California Association of Nonprofits
Chief Defenders Association of New York
Civil Service Bar Association
Council of Administrators of Special Education
Committee for Public Counsel Services
Council on Social Work Education
Disability Rights Oregon
Georgetown University
Higher Education Loan Coalition
Learning Disabilities Association of America
Legal Aid at Work
Loan Repayment Assistance Program of Minnesota
MCASA's Sexual Assault Legal Institute
National Association for College Admission Counseling
National Association of Secondary School Principals
National Association of Social Workers
National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators
National Education Association
National Indian Education Association
National Labor Relations Board Union
National Legal Aid and Defender Association
School Social Work Association of America
The Committee for Public Counsel Services
Young Invincibles