

May 23rd, 2018

Dear Members of Congress:

The undersigned organizations urge you to preserve Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF). This program, enacted with bipartisan support during the Bush Administration, forgives the remaining student loan debt of individuals who have served ten years in qualifying public service employment while paying off their student loans. It has given Americans from all regions across the country the ability to take on and remain in critically needed public service jobs that help keep our communities healthy, safe, and educated.

College and 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 - governments and nonprofits - have difficulty attracting and retaining the employees they need.

The ability to earn PSLF has changed that equation for tens of thousands of professionals dedicated to public service. Teachers, firefighters, police officers, librarians, nurses, social workers, veterinarians, prosecutors, active duty military and other professionals rely on it. PSLF helps ensure that our families have better access to critical health services, that our schools have a pipeline of talented teachers and counselors ready to serve, and that our neighborhoods have access to trained first responders and law enforcement officials to keep them safe. Because of PSLF, our communities - urban and rural - are better able to provide the everyday services our citizens require and to react to crises such as natural disasters and the opioid epidemic.

Eliminating PSLF, as the PROSPER Act proposes, will cripple communities across the country, especially those in rural regions, and negatively affect the health and well-being of many Americans, depriving them of needed services in our schools, hospitals, courtrooms, and neighborhoods. We urge you to fully preserve PSLF for current and future generations. Thank you for your consideration.

AASA, The School Superintendents Association  
AccessLex Institute  
American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine  
American Council on Education  
American Dance Therapy Association  
American Federation of School Administrators (AFSA)  
American Federation of Teachers  
American Psychological Association  
American School Counselor Association

American Veterinary Medical Association  
Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges  
Association of School Business Officials International (ASBO)  
Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health  
Association of Young Americans (AYA)  
California Association of Nonprofits  
Council of Administrators of Special Education  
Council on Social Work Education  
Equal Justice Works  
Independent Sector  
Learning Disabilities Association of America  
Legal Aid at Work  
Loan Repayment Assistance Program of Minnesota  
National Association for College Admission Counseling  
National Asian Pacific American Bar Association  
National Association of Secondary School Principals  
National Association of Social Workers  
National Council of Nonprofits  
National Education Association  
National Indian Education Association  
National Legal Aid & Defender Association  
National Rural Education Advocacy Coalition  
Navigate, LLC  
School Social Work Association of America  
Young Invincibles