

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