



THE SECRETARY OF EDUCATION  
WASHINGTON, DC 20202

March 20, 2010

Honorable Paul E. Kanjorski  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Kanjorski:

I share your passion for ensuring access to higher education for all students. As you know, legislation currently pending in Congress, the Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act, is aimed at this very effort by increasing the maximum Pell grant and alleviating debt burden.

I recognize there are employees working in the student loan industry in your district who may be concerned about the changes this legislation will bring. Fortunately, in addition to making significant investments in higher education, the legislation provides opportunities for substantial private-public partnerships in administering federal student loans and assisting in default prevention and collection. Specifically, the legislation allows for the private student loan industry to compete for contracts to service all federal student loans, which we believe will result in high-quality customer service. The private sector also plays a critical role in the delivery of student aid, as well as in the ongoing management of the more than \$400 billion of loans in the FFEL portfolio.

In structuring these arrangements, the Department of Education will consider job preservation and other socio-economic factors in the public interest. The Department's goal is to see that jobs are preserved in areas already adversely affected by the economic downturn.

As Secretary, at a time when families are struggling, I am personally committed to using other tools that may be at my disposal to help ensure that employees in the student loan industry, including those in your district, remain employed.

I look forward to working with you on our shared goal of ensuring that students and families have access to higher education while also preserving jobs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Arne Duncan".

Arne Duncan