



July 9, 2014

The Honorable John Kline  
Chairman, House Committee on Education and the Workforce  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Kline:

On behalf of the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (NASFAA), I write to express appreciation for the Committee's recent legislative proposals to improve transparency and simplicity in the upcoming Higher Education Act (HEA) reauthorization. NASFAA represents nearly 20,000 financial aid professionals at approximately 3,000 colleges and universities; NASFAA member institutions serve nine out of every ten undergraduates in the U.S.

We support provisions in the *Simplifying the Application for Student Aid Act*, *Empowering Students Through Enhanced Counseling Act*, *Strengthening Transparency in Higher Education Act*, and *Advancing Competency-Based Education Demonstration Project Act* that:

- Require the use of prior-prior year (PPY) income tax data in the need analysis process
- Mandate enhanced counseling for students
- Streamline consumer information through the development of a "College Dashboard" website
- Authorize important demonstration projects to help make the federal financial aid system more accommodating to innovative learning models

Collectively, these bills will improve the ability of our nation's students and families to obtain relevant and timely information about the availability of federal student aid.

The use of prior-prior year (PPY) income as the basis to calculate a student's expected family contribution (EFC) would offer more time for students and families to evaluate award offers from institutions and make an informed decision about where to attend college. We also support your efforts to streamline consumer information and increase transparency through

the *Strengthening Transparency in Higher Education Act*.

Concerns about student debt are growing, and we appreciate your efforts to address this issue through improved counseling in the *Empowering Students Through Enhanced Financial Counseling Act*. Schools with high borrowing rates or default rates would welcome additional authority to require counseling on an ongoing basis. We also have suggestions for ways in which students attending institutions with low cohort default rates – or other measures that indicate responsible borrowing - could be exempt from unnecessary requirements.

We understand that these bills are a first step toward reauthorization of the Higher Education Act and we appreciate the Committee's commitment to moving this process along. On behalf of our membership, I thank you for addressing these important issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Justin Draeger". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Justin Draeger  
President