

# The Coalition to Preserve PSLF

January 17th, 2019

Dear New Member,

Congratulations on your election. No entering class of the House of Representatives has ever faced greater challenges, and we stand ready to help you address them.

The undersigned organizations are part of a broad coalition committed to preserving and strengthening the Public Service Loan Forgiveness program (PSLF). This program, enacted with bipartisan support during the George W. Bush administration, encourages Americans to pursue careers in public service that significantly contribute to the well-being of the communities you represent. Through the program, a career public servant who has worked for ten years in qualifying public service while also making ten-years' worth of monthly on-time payments on their student loans can earn forgiveness on their remaining student debt. PSLF has become an important tool for attracting and retaining talented individuals who could otherwise earn higher salaries in the for-profit sector to serve as teachers, nurses, social workers, police officers, prosecutors, public defenders, firefighters, veterinarians, military lawyers, congressional staffers, and other critical public service positions. We encourage you to visit [www.PreservePSLF.com](http://www.PreservePSLF.com) to learn more about this vital program.

Unfortunately, PSLF has been under attack. The President's Budget Requests for FY 18 and FY 19 proposed to eliminate the program, and the higher education reauthorization bill passed out of the House Education and Workforce Committee in December 2017 (the PROSPER Act) would also have eliminated PSLF—despite considerable bipartisan support for an amendment to restore and expand PSLF. A bipartisan House PSLF Caucus, along with the undersigned and many other institutions, successfully worked together to prevent the program's demise. Congress has even taken some limited steps over the past year to strengthen the program. Given the benefits that this program brings to our communities nationwide, we urge you to oppose any future attempts to eliminate or weaken PSLF.

We must, however, do more than just preserve the program. The Department of Education recently reported that only approximately one-half percent of the more than 41,000 applications for loan forgiveness under PSLF were approved, and a Government Accountability Office (GAO) report identified significant weaknesses in the manner and type of information the Department has provided to loan servicers and borrowers over the past decade. The GAO proposed specific improvements in how the Department interacts with loan servicers and borrowers to help ensure the program is administered appropriately, and Congress has appropriated \$2.3 million for both FY 2018 and FY 2019 to improve outreach to borrowers. Congress must exercise its oversight authority to ensure that PSLF is implemented

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in a way that maximizes the benefits the program provides to communities throughout this country.

We would be happy to answer any questions you have about PSLF, and look forward to working with you on this and other issues.

Thank you for your consideration of this letter and, again, congratulations.

AASA, The School Superintendents Association  
AccessLex Institute  
American Council on Education  
American Federation of Teachers  
American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees  
Association of School Business Officials International (ASBO)  
American Psychological Association  
American Veterinary Medical Association  
Association of School Business Officials  
Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health.  
Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges  
Association of Young Americans  
California Association of Nonprofits  
Committee for Public Counsel Services, Massachusetts  
Council on Social Work Education  
Civil Service Bar Association  
Equal Justice Works  
Legal Aid at Work  
Loan Repayment Assistance Program of Minnesota  
National Association of Federal Veterinarians  
National Association for College Admission Counseling  
National Asian Pacific American Bar Association  
National Association of Social Workers  
National Legal Aid & Defender Association  
National Labor Relations Board Union  
National Education Association  
Partnership for Public Service  
School Social Work Association of America.  
Young Invincibles