September 27, 2017

Honorable Paul Ryan  
Speaker of the House  
House of Representatives  
H-232, The Capitol  
Washington DC 20515

Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Minority Leader  
House of Representatives  
H-204, The Capitol  
Washington DC 20515

Dear Speaker Ryan and Leader Pelosi,

On behalf of the higher education associations listed below, I write you with an urgent request to bring H.R. 2482, the Perkins Loan Extension Act to the floor for a vote this week. This legislation enjoys strong bipartisan support and a majority of Members of Congress have already joined the legislation as cosponsors.

We realize this is an unusual request, but the circumstances require it, as the Perkins Loan program is set to expire on September 30th. Allowing the program to expire without any alternative in place will mean half a million students struggling to fund their college educations.

A similar extension was passed by unanimous consent in both chambers two years ago. This legislation would simply provide a two-year extension of the program to ensure that there is sufficient time to address the program in a comprehensive manner through the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act.

Thank you for considering this request.

Sincerely,

Ted Mitchell  
President

On behalf of:

American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers  
American Association of Community Colleges  
American Association of State Colleges and Universities  
American Council on Education  
Association of American Universities  
Association of Community College Trustees
Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges
Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities
Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities
Council for Christian Colleges & Universities
Council for Opportunity in Education
Council of Graduate Schools
Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities
EDUCAUSE
NASPA - Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education
National Council for Community and Education Partnerships
National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education
National Association of College and University Business Officers
National Association of Independent Colleges & Universities
National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators
Thurgood Marshall College Fund
UNCF
September 27, 2017

Senator Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510

Senator Charles Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510

Dear Leaders McConnell and Schumer,

On behalf of the higher education associations listed below, I write you with an urgent request to bring S. 1808, the Federal Perkins Loan Program Extension Act of 2017 to the floor for a vote this week. This legislation was introduced with bipartisan support and a similar extension was passed by unanimous consent in both chambers two years ago.

We realize this is an unusual request, but the circumstances require it, as the Perkins Loan program is set to expire on September 30th. Allowing the program to expire without any alternative in place will mean half a million students struggling to fund their college educations.

This legislation would simply provide a two-year extension of the program to ensure that there is sufficient time to address the program in a comprehensive manner through the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act.

Thank you for considering this request.

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