

# B1Gial Aid Directors

July 27, 2017

Phil Asbury  
Northwestern University

Anna Griswold  
Pennsylvania State  
University

Monique Boyd  
University of Maryland

Dan Mann  
University of Illinois

Derek Kindle  
University of Wisconsin

Diane Corbett  
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Jackie Kennedy-Fletcher  
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Jean Rash  
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Justin Chase Brown  
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Tina Falkner  
University of Minnesota

Brent Gage  
University of Iowa

Pam Fowler  
University of Michigan

Rick Shipman  
Michigan State  
University

Theodore Malone  
Purdue University

The Honorable Lamar Alexander  
Chairman  
Committee on Health, Education  
& Pensions  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Health, Education  
& Pensions  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Alexander and Ranking Member Murray:

We are writing to call your attention to a matter that impacts students from low-income families that attend B1G Conference universities. Unless Congress takes action, the Perkins Loan program will expire on September 30, 2017 leaving tens of thousands of students who have demonstrated financial need with one less option to fund their college education. While there have not been federal capital contributions to the Perkins Loan program for many years, schools have continued to use existing resources from Perkins Loan graduate repayments to fund new loans for needy students. We request that Congress delay the expiration of the Perkins Loan until Congress is able to enact a comprehensive Higher Education Act.

Since its inception in 1958, access to Federal Perkins Loans has played an important part of providing need-based financial aid for our students. The loan program distributes low-interest (5 percent) subsidized loans to students with demonstrated financial need and priority is given to those with exceptional need. Loan repayments are cancelled for borrowers who perform certain volunteer, military, health care or other services. When students graduate, they repay their loans directly to their postsecondary institution and repayments are used to make new loans to students by way of a revolving fund. Up until 2005, the Federal Government made federal capital contributions that the school matched with at least 33 percent of its own institutional funds. In 2015-16 \$72.5 million in Perkins loans were disbursed to 30,533 students throughout the B1G Conference universities. It is an integral program that contributes to the financial aid packages made up of grants, work study and loans that are available to students with the greatest need.

On May 17, 2017 Rep. Elise Stefanik (NY) and Rep. Mark Pocan (WI) introduced H.R. 2482, the Federal Perkins Loan Program Extension Act of 2017, as a two-year extension. In anticipation of the bill passing the House, we urge the Senate to support an extension in a timely manner. We believe the program should be extended until Congress has the opportunity to completely consider all existing student financial aid programs and possible new programs through the next reauthorization of the Higher Education Act.

Sincerely,

The Financial Aid Directors of the B1G Conference universities

CC: Congressional delegations of the B1G Conference states: IL, IN, IA, MD, MI, MN, NE, NJ, OH, PA, and WI

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Purdue University

The Honorable Virginia Foxx  
Chairwoman  
Committee on Education &  
the Workforce  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Robert Scott  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Education &  
and the Workforce  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Foxx and Ranking Member Scott:

We urge you to pass H.R. 2482, the Federal Perkins Loan Program Extension Act of 2017. This two year extension will benefit students from low-income families that attend B1G Conference universities.

Unless Congress takes action, the Perkins Loan program will expire on September 30, 2017 leaving tens of thousands of students who have demonstrated financial need with one less option to fund their college education. While there have not been federal capital contributions to the revolving Perkins Loan program for many years, schools have continued to use existing resources from Perkins Loan repayments to fund new loans for needy students. We request that Congress delay the expiration of the Perkins Loan until Congress is able to enact a comprehensive Higher Education Act.

Since its inception in 1958, access to Federal Perkins Loans has played an important part of providing need-based financial aid for our students. The loan program distributes low-interest (5 percent) subsidized loans to students with demonstrated financial need and priority is given to those with exceptional need. Loan repayments are cancelled for borrowers who perform certain volunteer, military, health care or other services. Up until 2005, the Federal Government made federal capital contributions that the school matched with at least 33 percent of its own institutional funds. In 2015-16 \$72.5 million in Perkins loans were disbursed to 30,533 students throughout the B1G Conference universities. It is an integral program that contributes to the financial aid packages made up of grants, work study, and loans that are available to students with the greatest need.

We urge you to pass H.R. 2482 to extend the Federal Perkins Loan Program until Congress has the opportunity to completely consider all existing student financial aid programs and possible new programs through the next reauthorization of the Higher Education Act.

Sincerely,

The Financial Aid Directors of the B1G Conference universities

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