



INDIANA STUDENT FINANCIAL AID ASSOCIATION

www.isfaa.org

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To the Honorable Members of the Indiana Congressional Delegation:

The Indiana Student Financial Aid Association (ISFAA) is grateful for the opportunity to present the following student aid issues for your review. ISFAA is an association whose regular membership consists of college and university financial aid administrators dedicated to helping Indiana students fund their educational dreams. Additional associate members from organizations engaged with aid delivery also help with our cause.

On behalf of the approximately 370,000 Indiana postsecondary education students, the ISFAA leadership asks you to consider the following issues:

Key Issues

- Disbursement and awarding rules for non-traditional class calendars needs review
- Stabilize Federal Pell Grant funding
- Continued funding for campus based financial aid
- Providing students with understandable and consistent information with which to make informed decisions

Delivery of Financial Aid

Many colleges and universities are offering non-traditional class calendar formats to better serve students. The use of non-term class schedules, sequential class arrangements, and accelerated academic schedules gives more opportunities for adults to attain higher education credentials. Federal regulations have been designed primarily for aid delivery using traditional semester/trimester formats. New awarding and

disbursement rules should be considered to better serve students while reducing the administrative burden for institutions who use nontraditional education plans.

Federal Pell Grant Funding

Funding for the Federal Pell Program has become more challenging in the past several years. Students who depend on this program remain trapped in the middle of this funding problem. Funding must be preserved as it ensures that our highest need students have access to acquire the skills necessary to achieve economic viability and to contribute to the economy throughout their lifetime.

Campus Based Funding

FSEOG and FWS have been level funded for several years. We encourage consideration for retaining and maintaining current funding to these programs as need-based grants have been shown to increase persistence of low-income students in obtaining their degrees.

Consumer Information Requirements

Before any further legislation is considered, we strongly encourage a comprehensive review of existing disclosures in order to determine which are most helpful to students and their parents via consumer testing, and then to streamline these tools. Also, given the importance of this issue, we hope any new disclosure efforts include adequate consumer testing prior to being legislated or made public.

In conclusion, ISFAA is pleased to share these thoughts and concerns. Our goal is to work with Congress and the U.S. Department of Education to insure students have access to federal and state financial aid programs to be able to pursue their goal of a college education.

Sincerely,

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