

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

September 25, 2015

The Honorable John A. Boehner  
Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-232, U.S. Capitol Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Speaker:

We are writing to express strong support for the Federal Perkins Loan Program and to raise serious concerns about the program's imminent expiration on October 1, 2015. We respectfully request your assistance in addressing this critical issue before the end of the fiscal year.

As you know, the Perkins Loan Program provides low interest loans to economically disadvantaged students to help finance their postsecondary educations. This critical program assisted nearly 540,000 students nationwide in the 2013-2014 academic year by providing nearly \$1.2 billion in loans. The federal government has not contributed to the program since fiscal year 2009; however, more than 1,500 colleges and universities across the United States continue to operate this program making college more affordable for students in need.

While the Perkins Loan Program is utilized nationwide, it is of particular importance in California where more than 46,000 students received more than \$105 million in the 2013-2014 academic year. This assistance, combined with our state's unique network consisting of the California State University system, the University of California system, and the other private and public institutions, increases access to higher education opportunities and improves the state's economy by ensuring that today's students are tomorrow's highly-trained workforce.

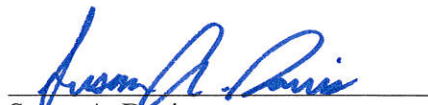
It is our hope that we can thoughtfully address this issue before the October 1st deadline by building on past bipartisan efforts in support of the Perkins Loan Program. As the former Chairman of the House Committee on Education and the Workforce, you clearly understand the importance of ensuring affordable access to post-secondary education having led efforts to maintain and improve the Perkins Loan Program. It is with this mutual enthusiasm for the Perkins Loan Program that we encourage you to expeditiously consider H.R. 3594, the Higher Education Extension Act of 2015, to address the needs of American students. Your public support of this effort would surely expedite the reauthorization of this vital program.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. We look forward to working with you on this and other matters in a bipartisan manner.

Sincerely,



Mark DeSaulnier  
Member of Congress



Susan A. Davis  
Member of Congress



Mark Takano  
Member of Congress