



October 30, 2019

House Education & Labor Committee  
United States House  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative:

NEA members strongly support the College Affordability Act (H.R. 4674) and reiterate our request that you vote YES on this legislation. Additionally, we write to inform you of our position on particular amendments to the bill. Votes associated with the College Affordability Act may be included in NEA's Report Card for the 116th Congress.

**Amendment NEA SUPPORTS:**

Shalala amendment, which would require a GAO study on license revocations (including teaching licenses) related to student loan defaults, because it would:

- Require a study of state practices related to denying, suspending, or revoking professional or driver's licenses as a penalty for student loan default, review the extent to which student loan borrowers are affected, and assess the consequences of these actions on borrowers.

**Amendments NEA OPPOSES:**

Comer amendment, which would deny Public Service Loan Forgiveness and Teacher Loan Forgiveness to individuals found guilty of crimes against children, because:

- Safeguards are already in place to prevent these individuals from having jobs in teaching; and
- The amendment punishes them and subjects them to further punishment after they have already served time, blocking them from education and career paths.

Stefanik amendment to sunset the Public Service Loan Forgiveness program and replace it with a state program to provide loan repayment credits based on state workforce needs because it would:

- Make it more difficult for adjunct and contingent faculty members to receive loan forgiveness; and
- Potentially provide only immediate and temporary relief, leaving borrowers with a substantial debt by the time they retire or leave the profession.

Allen amendment to prohibit undocumented students from accessing in-state/discounted tuition because it:

- Undercuts the core American value of fairness and weakens the HEA's original intent of expanding educational opportunity; and
- Punishes students for the circumstances of their birth and upbringing.

The Higher Education Act created new opportunities for students when it became law. Fifty-four years later, the College Affordability Act will bring our nation much closer to fulfilling the HEA's promise.

Sincerely,

Marc Egan  
Director of Government Relations  
National Education Association