

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 19, 2010

The Honorable Tom Harkin  
Chairman  
Senate Committee on Health, Education,  
Labor, and Pensions  
428 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Michael B. Enzi  
Ranking Member  
Senate Committee on Health, Education,  
Labor, and Pensions  
428 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Harkin and Ranking Member Enzi:

As you know, Delaware is home to two student loan lenders – Access Group and Sallie Mae. We write to assure that, as you revise the federal student loan programs, there will continue to be meaningful roles for these student loan lenders and their employees to assist students seeking a higher education.

We certainly support reforming the federal student loan programs. This will generate significant new federal resources that can be used to improve the Pell Grant program and many other important education initiatives. Understanding the importance of boosting funding for education programs, particularly in the current economic environment, we remain hopeful that the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions will remain open to hearing our proposals for reasonable modifications that will guard against job loss in Delaware without sacrificing necessary budget savings.

Access Group is a unique non-profit student loan provider in that it is a membership organization comprised of all American Bar Association accredited law schools, which provides loans to students from all fifty states and the District of Columbia. Access Group employs 400 people in Delaware.

The student loan reform legislation passed by the House last year (H.R. 3221) recognizes the important role non-profit student loan providers can continue to play in servicing student loans. However, the accommodations made in H.R. 3221 for non-profit student loan providers do not take into account the relationship membership organizations such as Access Group have with their member schools. We are asking that you include additional provisions when your committee considers this legislation to allow for non-profit membership organizations to service student loans from their member schools across the country. The provisions that would be helpful to Access Group would not undermine the overall student loan reform or negate potential savings.

We also have concerns over the potential impact on Sallie Mae's operations in Delaware, which employs nearly 700 workers. We ask that as you draft the committee's mark of H.R. 3221, you maintain a role for Sallie Mae in the student lending process that recognizes the important

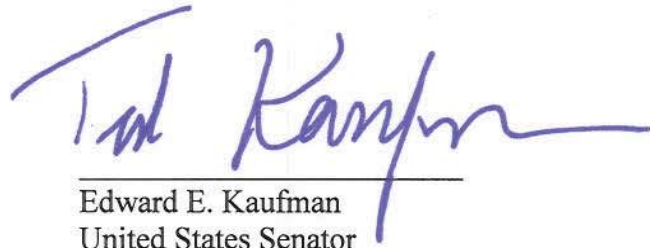
services Sallie Mae has provided millions of students and mitigates any potential job loss in Delaware.

We appreciate the courtesies extended to our offices and help your staff has provided. We look forward to continuing working with you to shape this important legislation. Please do not hesitate to contact us or our staffs if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Tom Carper  
United States Senator



Edward E. Kaufman  
United States Senator