Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

November 2, 2005

The Honorable J. Dennis Hastert
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232, Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Democratic Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
H-204, Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jim Nussle
Chairman
Committee on the Budget
309 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Spratt
Ranking Member
Committee on the Budget
B-17 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Boehner
Chairman
Education and the Workforce Committee
2181 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable George Miller
Ranking Member
Education and the Workforce Committee
2101 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Hastert, Leader Pelosi, Chairmen and Ranking Members:

We are writing to express our opposition to House plans to cut $14.3 billion from the federal student aid programs – the single largest cut in the student aid program's history.

The $14.3 billion in cuts were passed by the House Education and the Workforce Committee as part of the House budget reconciliation bill. These cuts were made by: raising student loan interest rate caps; raising taxes on student loans; raising interest rates on consolidation loans; and, reducing some of the excessive subsidies paid to student lenders. We respectfully ask you to reexamine these cuts to students.

We are concerned that the proposed changes of the Education and the Workforce Committee will result in the typical student paying $5,800 more for college loans – for a student that is already $17,500 in debt. It is simply wrong to force our nation's students, most often youth, and their families to shoulder the burden of our country's debt.

These changes are not simply an additional burden for the Congress to place on students – but the cuts may cause some students to forgo their college degree. For most low-income, first generation and minority students, financial barriers are the principle factor that determines whether they will successfully complete college. American students need and deserve more affordable college opportunities, not additional barriers to achievement.

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

Time and again, we hear from researchers, CEOs and even our own colleagues that investing in our nation's education system is the key to improving America's global economic competitiveness. The proposed cuts to our country's higher education student aid programs will negatively impact our workforce and economy.

As college tuition and loan debt continue to rise and the buying power of grants declines, Congress should take steps to make college more affordable. Please help our nation's students as they work hard to achieve their dreams of a college degree.

Thank you for your careful consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

Bob Scott Tom Udall Chris Van Hollen

Raúl M. Grijalva

Leonard L. Boswell Loretta Sanchez Raúl Ruiz

Susan A. Davis Jim Matheson Barney Frank

Tony Cárdenas Tom Allen

John W. Olver Jim McDermott Ellen O. Tauscher

Brad Sherman Rush Holt Tammy Baldwin

John B. Larson Jim Cox E. Pomeroy

Nick Larson Jim Langevin Ed Case

Wm. Lacy Clay Pete Stark Diane E. Watson

Mark Udall John Barrow John F. Tierney

Dan Brown Tim Ryan Carolyn McCarthy

Rob Simmons Robert Wexler Artur Davis

Rob A. Brady Anna Eshoo Lloyd Doggett

Carl Crowley Hal Gorel Edward B. Schiff

Mike Ross Carl Green Stephanie Herseth

Ayala L. Hyde Fred Strickland Patrick O. Kennedy

Charles G. Foulkes John Lewis [illegible]

Michael H. Michael Albert R. Wynn Steve Israel

Brian Higgins [illegible] Frank Pallone Jr.

David Scott J.K. Butterfield [illegible]

Dennis J. Kucinich Lois Capps Gregory W. Meeks

Mike Honda Paul Gillmor Barbara Lee

Dennis Moore Carolyn C. Kilpatrick Hilda L. Solis

C. A. Dutch Ruppersberger Grace F. Napolitano Linda T. Sánchez

Emanuel Cleaver Julia Carson Neil Abercrombie

Danny K. Davis Diana DeGette Michael E. Capuano

John T. Salazar Henry Cuellar Ron Kind

Ben Chandler

Vic Snyder

Jim Marshall

Betty McCollum

David Wu

Kendrick B. Meek

Allyson Y. Schwartz

Eddie Bernice Johnson

Jim Davis

[illegible] Donald M. Payne [illegible]

David Price Rick Boucher Eliot L. Engel

[illegible] Carl E. Childers Edward J. Markey

[illegible] [illegible] James E. Clyburn

[illegible] Ed Bruce Jose E. Serrano

Bob Davis Elijah E. Cummings Nydia M. Velázquez

Robert Menendez Shelley Boehlert Gary L. Ackerman

Jerry L. Nadler

Steve Israel

Sherrod Brown

Carolyn B. Maloney

Lucille Roybal-Allard

Doris O. Matsui

Rita M. Lowey

Major R. Owens

Marcy Kaptur

Alan B. Mollohan

Steven R. Rothman

Chaka Fattah

Sandy Levin

Alcee L. Hastings

Maxine Waters

Nancy Kaptur

Jim Oberstar

Henry A. Waxman

Benny Ellis Pete Nicholls Jerry V. Costello

Rosa L. DeLauro Richard E. Neal Chet Edwards

Lane Evans Michael R. McNulty Charles Hayes

Harold L. Berman Jim Moran Bart Stupak

John A. Hingell Luis V. Gutierrez Dan Davis

Paul E. Kanjorski Melvin L. Watt

Mike Doyle Ed Pastor Nancy F. Johnson

John Longers Jr. Bob Filner Darlene Hooley

Dan Parker Bishop Jr

Corrine Brown Rubén Hinojosa Louise M Slaughter

Bill Pascrell Jr Norm Dicks Solomon P. Ortiz

Jane Harman Holly Pitch Paul Tachmindor

Tom Lantos Mike McIntyre Earl Blumenauer

Mike Thompson

Allen Boyd Melissa L Bean

Gene Taylor Matt Mesch Tim Holden

Sheila Jackson Lee Ben Cardin

Lynn C Woolsey

1. Russ Carnahan
2. Robert E. Andrews
3. Joe Schwarz, M.D.
4. Christopher Shays
5. Tammy Baldwin
6. Rush Holt
7. John Conyers, Jr.
8. Dennis Moore
9. Diane E. Watson
10. Chris Van Hollen
11. Steve Israel
12. Jerrold Nadler
13. Dale E. Kildee
14. Maurice Hinchey
15. Wm. Lacy Clay, Jr.
16. Bennie Thompson
17. Stephanie Tubbs Jones
18. Mike Honda
19. Tim Ryan
20. Robert Brady
21. Millender-McDonald
22. Stephen F. Lynch
23. William Delahunt
24. Jim McDermott
25. John Lewis
26. Frank Pallone
27. Susan Davis
28. Harold Ford, Jr.
29. James P. McGovern
30. Major R. Owens
31. Carolyn McCarthy
32. Dan Lipinski
33. Sander Levin
34. Sherwood Boehlert
35. Corrine Brown
36. E.B. Johnson
37. Sherrod Brown
38. Mike Doyle
39. Bob Etheridge
40. Brian Higgins
41. John F. Tierney
42. Brad Sherman
43. Barney Frank
44. Barbara Lee
45. Sanford Bishop

46. Ruben Hinojosa
47. Lynn Woolsey
48. Peter DeFazio
49. Danny Davis
50. Cynthia McKinney
51. David Scott
52. Raul Grijalva
53. Solomon Ortiz
54. Donald M. Payne
55. Adam Schiff
56. Doris Matsui
57. Bob Filner
58. John Dingell
59. Gwen Moore
60. Marcy Kaptur
61. Grace Napolitano
62. Rahm Emanuel
63. Joe Baca
64. Ben Chandler
65. Elijah E. Cummings
66. Tom Lantos
67. Carolyn Cheeks Kilpatrick
68. Nydia Velazquez
69. Silvestre Reyes
70. Ron Kind
71. Dutch Ruppersberger
72. David Price
73. Lois Capps
74. Robert Wexler
75. Edward J. Markey
76. James P. Moran
77. Rick Boucher
78. Lloyd Doggett
79. Richard E. Neal
80. John Olver
81. Linda Sanchez
82. Patrick Kennedy
83. Lane Evans
84. Bernard Sanders
85. Anthony Weiner
86. Albert Wynn
87. Carolyn Maloney
88. Ted Strickland
89. Mark Udall
90. Earl Pomeroy

91.	Gregory Meeks
92.	Sam Farr
93.	Earl Blumenauer
94.	Robert Menendez
95.	Joseph Crowley
96.	Al Green
97.	William J. Jefferson
98.	Shelley Berkley
99.	Charles A. Gonzalez
100.	Steven Rothman
101.	James Oberstar
102.	Marion Berry
103.	Jim Matheson
104.	Ellen Tauscher
105.	Janice D. Schakowsky
106.	Vic Snyder
107.	Rosa DeLauro
108.	Tom Udall
109.	Hilda Solis
110.	Eleanor Holmes Norton
111.	Debbie Wasserman Schultz
112.	Mel Watt
113.	Nita Lowey
114.	Loretta Sanchez
115.	Jim Marshall
116.	Jane Harman
117.	Betty McCollum
118.	James Clyburn
119.	Michael R. McNulty
120.	Neil Abercrombie
121.	Bobby Rush
122.	Tim Bishop
123.	Michael H. Michaud
124.	Eliot Engel
125.	Emanuel Cleaver, II
126.	Louise M. Slaughter
127.	John B. Larson
128.	Dennis J. Kucinich
129.	Rob Simmons
130.	Henry Cuellar
131.	Sheila Jackson Lee
132.	Michael Capuano
133.	Edolphus Towns
134.	Alcee Hastings
135.	Chaka Fattah

136.	Henry Waxman
137.	Ike Skelton
138.	Bobby Scott
139.	Mike McIntyre
140.	Mike Ross
141.	Artur Davis
142.	Dan Boren
143.	Lucille Roybal-Allard
144.	Tom Allen
145.	Brian Baird
146.	John Barrow
147.	G. K. Butterfield
148.	Jim Costa
149.	Gene Green
150.	Darlene Hooley
151.	James R. Langevin
152.	Bill Pascrell
153.	Nick J. Rahall
154.	John Salazar
155.	John Tanner
156.	Maxine Waters
157.	David Wu
158.	Allyson Schwartz
159.	Julia Carson
160.	Collin Peterson
161.	Jay Inslee
162.	Peter Visclosky
163.	Jim Leach
164.	Anna Eshoo
165.	Charlie Melancon
166.	Rick Larsen
167.	Stephanie Herseth
168.	Chet Edwards
169.	Gary Ackerman
170.	Howard Berman
171.	Ben Cardin
172.	Dennis Cardoza
173.	Ed Case
174.	Jerry Costello
175.	Lincoln Davis
176.	Diana DeGette
177.	Brad Miller
178.	John Murtha
179.	Jose Serrano
180.	Pete Stark

181.	Norm Dicks
182.	Leonard Boswell
183.	Jesse Jackson, Jr.
184.	Mike Thompson
185.	Xavier Becerra
186.	Bart Stupak
187.	Charles B. Rangel
188.	Steny H. Hoyer
189.	Adam Smith
190.	Nancy Johnson
191.	Tim Holden
192.	Luis Gutierrez
193.	Marty Meehan
194.	Alan B. Mollohan
195.	Kendrick B. Meek
196.	Gene Taylor
197.	Allen Boyd
198.	Jim Davis (FL)
199.	Paul Kanjorski
200.	Jim Cooper
201.	David Obey
202.	Melissa Bean
203.	Ed Pastor