

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0552

Speaker of the House
Honorable John Boehner
H-232 - The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

May 14, 2013

Mr. Speaker:

I am writing to urge you to bring H.R. 1595, the Student Loan Relief Act, swiftly to the floor. Representative Joe Courtney's bill would extend the reduced Stafford student loan rates for two years, preventing them from doubling on July 1st of this year. In the United States, no student who has worked hard and qualified for college should be denied this opportunity to strive for a better future, simply because they cannot afford to pay for it up front.

Affordable higher education for lower and middle class families has been central to the American story, including my own. I would not have been able to attend my alma mater, Duke University, without student loans and work study opportunities. There is broad consensus that keeping student loan interest rates low is the right thing to do, both because it encourages students to invest in their education and provides those carrying student debt with the ability to plan and budget for the long-term. Furthermore, we must invest in the education and future of our students if we want America to remain competitive in the quickly changing global economy.

Those of us elected for the first time in 2012 heard from the American people a similar message: stop the partisan bickering and start solving problems. I know that leaders in both parties can come together now for the students of this country to keep interest rates low. Bringing this particular bill to the floor right away will go a long way toward achieving this.

Respectfully,



Scott Peters
Member of Congress
52nd District of California