



*Investing in Student Success*SM

NEWS RELEASE

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Great Lakes Supports Petition to Ease Student Loan Repayment Burden *Endorsement Continues Commitment to Student Success*

Madison, Wis. – Great Lakes Higher Education Guaranty Corporation (Great Lakes) joined student groups, parent associations and college access providers in a formal petition urging the U.S. Department of Education (ED) to make student loan payments more manageable for low-income borrowers.

The petition focuses on improving current regulations related to student loan repayment. Specifically, it seeks to simplify the economic hardship deferment application process and make required payments more manageable by basing them on both federal poverty guidelines and family size. It also seeks to make the income contingent repayment program more effective and accessible to more student loan borrowers, not just those in the Federal Direct Loan program. The petition was filed by the Project on Student Debt, an organization that promotes public policy changes that aim to improve access to higher education by reducing student debt burdens. The full text of the petition can be found at www.projectonstudentdebt.org.

“These proposals are consistent with Great Lakes’ commitment to helping borrowers avoid defaulting on their student loans,” said Richard D. George, Great Lakes’ President and Chief Executive Officer. “As interest rates rise and forbearance and deferment periods are exhausted, it is critically important that additional delinquency prevention and default aversion options be considered. The petition process offers a unique means to engage this effort. If adopted, these proposals would further advance our efforts to provide viable repayment options to borrowers who are willing to pay their student loans but unable to manage their monthly payments.”

Helping students manage their repayment obligations is a key part of Great Lakes’ default aversion focus, solidified in its Voluntary Flexible Agreement with ED. This focus has allowed Great Lakes to post record low cohort default rate and claims rate results, as well as industry leading defaulted loan rehabilitation successes.

For more information about Great Lakes’ commitment to student success, please contact Amy Kerwin, Chief Guaranty Officer, at (608) 246-1785.

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About Great Lakes

Great Lakes Higher Education Guaranty Corporation is the designated guarantor for Minnesota, Ohio, Wisconsin, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Its affiliated group of companies is one of the nation's largest providers of student loan services. The affiliated group currently interacts with some 2,700 schools and 1,400 lenders in all 50 states, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The group holds guarantees on more than \$30 billion in FFELP loans and services student loans with an aggregate outstanding balance of more than \$28 billion for over 1.8 million borrowers. Great Lakes' affiliated group is headquartered in Madison, Wisconsin, and has operating centers in Columbus, Ohio and St. Paul, Minnesota and customer service and development sites in Eau Claire and Boscobel, Wisconsin, and Oak Brook, Illinois. Great Lakes' mission is assurance of cost-effective enablement of educational access. For more information, visit www.GreatLakesGuaranty.org.