



June 20, 2006

*Sent Via Email*

Secretary's Commission on the Future of Higher Education  
U.S. Department of Education, Room 5E313  
400 Maryland Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20202

Dear Members of the Commission:

I am writing on behalf of the more than 3,000 institutions and others with related interests of the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (NASFAA) to urge you to include an important and practical recommendation in your final report to the Secretary: make student loan repayment more affordable.

An administrative petition to the Department of Education, filed in May 2006 by organizations representing students, parents, and the lending industry, spells out how to repair the rules that are supposed to protect borrowers from unmanageable payment requirements. The Department has said that they are looking to the Commission for leadership on this issue.

Student loans help millions of Americans pay for college, and higher education strengthens our nation and our economy. But rising student debt and interest rates are putting borrowers and their families at financial risk. That's because under current rules, required payments have nothing to do with what borrowers can actually afford given their income and family responsibilities.

With more students having to borrow more money for college than ever before, and interest rates set to increase soon, manageable payment options have never been so essential. NASFAA urges the Commission to include the changes proposed in the petition among your recommendations.

Thank you for considering this important issue.

Sincerely,

Dallas Martin  
NASFAA President

*“Opening Doors of Educational Opportunity”*

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