Graduate education is valuable to both individuals and society as a whole

- Employers increasingly want or require employees to have advanced degrees.
- Individuals with graduate degrees tend to earn higher salaries, which also increases tax revenue to support other federal programs.
- Services provided by advanced degree holders – such as doctors, teachers and prosecutors – play a critical role in citizens’ everyday lives and enhance the wellbeing of our communities.

The Grad PLUS program plays a critically important role in providing access to graduate education

- Access, by way of federal financial aid, is the cornerstone of the federal investment in higher education.
- Policymakers must be guided by data and research and a commitment to access when considering any changes to federal student loans. Failure to do so could result in unintended consequences, including restricting access.

Grad PLUS does not increase the cost of tuition

- A common critique of the Grad PLUS program is rooted in the so-called Bennett hypothesis, which suggests that providing federally guaranteed funds to students will incentivize institutions to significantly and recklessly raise tuition prices.
- However, since the Grad PLUS program was created in 2005, though graduate tuition has increased year over year, it has not skyrocketed – in fact, increases have held steady across public and nonprofit law schools, as well as medical and business schools.

Grad PLUS cost projections are likely inflated

- Only about nine percent of the over 810,000 graduate degree recipients in Academic Year 2015-16 had Grad PLUS loans and a federal student debt load of over $100,000.

Examining Grad PLUS: Value and Cost
Report Key Takeaways

Median earnings for full-time workers at least 25 years old.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree Level</th>
<th>Median Earnings</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Associate</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bachelor’s</td>
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<td>Master’s</td>
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