

## POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS:

# Higher Education Act

AccessLex Institute believes that reauthorization of the Higher Education Act presents an opportunity to strengthen graduate and professional education and to help students better manage its expense and succeed in their chosen careers. The following are our recommendations to promote greater access, improved affordability and increased value in graduate and professional education.



### INFORMED DECISION-MAKING

- > Financial aid administrators should be able to require additional loan counseling for students.
- > Congress should expand access to comprehensive higher education data through the collection and dissemination of student-level data.

### REPAYMENT

- > Federal Direct Loan borrowers entering repayment should be eligible for a single income-driven repayment plan.
- > The Public Service Loan Forgiveness program should be preserved.

### ACCESS AND AFFORDABILITY

- > Costs associated with preparing for a requisite professional licensure exam should be eligible for federal student loan funding.
- > Eligibility for subsidized Stafford Loans should be reinstated for graduate and professional students from disadvantaged backgrounds.
- > Students who do not exhaust their Pell Grant funds as undergraduates should be allowed to use the remainder for their graduate and professional studies.
- > Congress should establish a student loan cost structure that seeks to operate in a cost-neutral manner, providing neither profit nor loss for the federal government.



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