



July 1, 2019

Honorable Robert Scott
Chairman
House Education and Labor Committee
2176 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Honorable Virginia Foxx
Ranking Member
House Education and Labor Committee
2101 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Scott and Ranking Member Foxx:

AccessLex Institute is pleased to offer its support for H.R. 3418, the *Protecting Our Students by Terminating Graduate Rates that Add to Debt (POST GRAD) Act*, which would reinstate the in-school interest subsidy for graduate and professional students who borrow federal Direct Stafford Loans.

AccessLex Institute, in partnership with its nearly 200 nonprofit and state-affiliated ABA-approved member law schools, has been committed to improving access to legal education and to maximizing the affordability and value of a law degree since 1983. The AccessLex Center for Legal Education Excellence advocates for policies that make legal education work better for students and society alike, and conducts research on the most critical issues facing legal education today.

The Budget Control Act of 2011 eliminated Direct Subsidized Loans for graduate students. While graduate students can still borrow the same aggregate amount in Direct Loans, they can only borrow unsubsidized loans, which accrue interest while borrowers are enrolled in school. Loss of the in-school interest benefit for graduate and professional students increases their loan balances by thousands of dollars, decreasing both access to and the value of advanced education. Introduced on June 21, 2019 by Representative Judy Chu (D-CA), the *POST GRAD Act* would restore parity between undergraduate and graduate education funding policy by reinstating graduate students' eligibility for federal subsidized student loans.

As more jobs in today's economy require an advanced degree, it is critically important that Congress advance policies that enable students to enter into these jobs and provide much needed services to individuals across this country. The *POST GRAD Act* would meaningfully lower the cost of graduate education for students who may not be able to otherwise afford it.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Nancy Conneely, Director of Policy, at nconneely@accesslex.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "A - N. T L".

Aaron N. Taylor
Executive Director, Center for Legal Education Excellence