



June 7, 2017

Honorable Virginia Foxx  
Chairwoman  
House Education and the Workforce Committee  
2176 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Honorable Robert Scott  
Ranking Member  
House Education and Workforce Committee  
2101 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Foxx and Ranking Member Scott:

AccessLex Institute is pleased to offer its support for H.R. 2526, 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.

As you know, the Budget Control Act of 2011 eliminated federal subsidized Stafford loans for graduate students. Graduate students can still borrow the same amount in Stafford loan funding, but they can only borrow unsubsidized loans. Loss of the in-school interest benefit for graduate and professional students increases their loan balances by thousands of dollars, including an additional \$4,000 in principal for the typical law student. Introduced on May 18, 2017 by Representative Judy Chu (D-CA), the *POST GRAD Act* would restore parity in the funding policy for undergraduate and graduate education by reinstating graduate students' eligibility for federal subsidized student loans.

The reinstatement of subsidized Stafford loans for graduate and professional students is one of a series of policy recommendations from AccessLex Institute for the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act. AccessLex believes that the *POST GRAD Act* presents a strong opportunity to meaningfully and immediately enhance access and affordability of graduate and professional education.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or Nancy Conneely, Director of Policy, at [nconneely@accesslex.org](mailto:nconneely@accesslex.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris S." or "Christopher S." followed by a surname.

Christopher P. Chapman  
President and Chief Executive Officer

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