



March 24, 2020

The Honorable Betsy DeVos
Secretary
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue SW
Washington, DC 20202

Dear Secretary DeVos:

It is our understanding that the U.S. Department of Education soon intends to announce additional actions it will take to provide relief to student borrowers in response to the coronavirus. As you craft these proposals, we respectfully urge you to issue a moratorium—for the duration of the emergency—on the collection of federal student loan payments from borrowers already in default or borrowers at risk of default because of economic disruption due to coronavirus. As members of Future Forum, a generational caucus focused on addressing issues important to younger Americans, we believe this step would provide immediate relief to student borrowers who are most in need of support.

Of the nearly 45 million student borrowers in the United States, there are an estimated 5.7 million in default and many more at risk of default. Default can have severe repercussions. It can make it difficult or impossible for a student borrower to obtain a loan and can lead to the garnishment of their wages and the withholding of their federal benefits. Coronavirus will exacerbate the situation that many student borrowers currently in the workforce face, because businesses are closing and workers are being laid off or having their salaries or wages reduced. Therefore, suspending the collection of federal student loan payments from our most vulnerable student borrowers would help enable these Americans to prioritize their most basic needs, such as food, health care, housing, and child care.

We appreciate your attention to this matter and we stand ready to work with you to ensure that we are providing much-needed relief to student borrowers during this unprecedented time.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Murphy
Member of Congress

Eric Swalwell
Member of Congress

Abby Finkenauer
Member of Congress

Jimmy Gomez
Member of Congress

Joe Cunningham
Member of Congress

Ruben Gallego
Member of Congress

Grace Meng
Member of Congress

Katie Porter
Member of Congress

Elissa Slotkin
Member of Congress

Seth Moulton
Member of Congress

Max Rose
Member of Congress

Kendra Horn
Member of Congress

Debbie Mucarsel-Powell
Member of Congress

Darren Soto
Member of Congress