

## Federal Level Sample Letter HEA - Senate

<This is a sample letter template you can use to contact your *Senators* to urge them to support students and institutions in considering HEA reauthorization. To use this letter, you should **copy and paste the text below into a new document** and **replace the highlighted text with information specific to you.**

- In the second paragraph, you should personalize your letter by providing an example or two of how students you work with benefit from federal investments in higher education.
- You do **NOT** need to name specific students or indicate the institution you work at.

*You may also make other changes to the text in the template, to add or remove specific information and tailor your letter to focus on the issues most important to you.>*

March 12, 2019

Dear Senator <Lastname>:

As your constituent living in <Your City>, I am writing today to ask you to support college students in <Your State> and across the country.

As a student affairs professional, I see first-hand how federal programs support students. Student affairs is a critical component of the higher education experience, collaborating with colleagues across institutions of higher education to offer students valuable learning opportunities, meaningful social engagements, and safe and inclusive environments. <Insert personal statement or story>

On behalf of our students, I urge you to work with your Congressional colleagues on the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee to draft and support comprehensive bipartisan legislation to reauthorize the Higher Education Act (HEA) that will provide student aid and institutional support for today's students. Specifically, I ask that you support proposals that would modernize federal financial aid programs for today's students by recognizing the needs of adult students with jobs and families who increasingly attend college part-time, students who choose to dedicate their careers to improving their communities through public service, and students who are working to improve their opportunities following incarceration. Expanding the reach and scope of the federal Pell Grant program, preserving Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (SEOG) and Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) programs, and increasing support for programs that support low-income and minority students are essential to the future of our national economy. Federal regulations designed to protect our nation's investment in higher education, such as the gainful employment and borrower defense regulations, are in danger of being weakened or eliminated by the Department of Education; please work to craft legislation that will provide for appropriate accountability for our nation's investment in higher education. Finally, I ask you to pay specific attention to crafting legislation that will work to close equity gaps for historically marginalized populations in our country by maintaining or increasing institutional support for minority serving institutions under Titles III and IV and sustaining our investments in low-income students through the TRIO programs.

The future of our nation's knowledge economy relies on a college-educated workforce. I am relying on you to do what is right both for <Your State>'s students and our nation as a whole.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue. I look forward to hearing from you about your plans to support our students and institutions of higher education.

Sincerely,

<Your Name>

<Your Address, including Zip Code>