

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

COMMITTEES:  
ENERGY AND  
NATURAL RESOURCES  
FINANCE  
FOREIGN RELATIONS  
HOMELAND SECURITY  
AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

October 29, 2018

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

Dear Secretary DeVos,

We write to inquire about the letter sent to you on March 27, 2018 regarding forgiveness of Parent PLUS loans. Given that we have not received a response to our original correspondence, we felt it necessary to reiterate our request that you discharge all existing and future Parent PLUS Loans taken out on behalf of students who become totally and permanently disabled, and we ask for a prompt response.

As you know, students who experience a total and permanent disability (TPD) are discharged from repayment for most federal student loans. However, the same cannot be said for parents who borrow funds on their child's behalf, who are currently obligated to repay loans regardless of their child's TPD status. Yet, parent borrowers are eligible for forgiveness upon the death of their child. Addressing this inequity is vital.

This issue is not only a matter of sound policy, but also of significance to real people. We have constituents—hardworking Americans—who bear the burden of student loan debt in the face of their child's disability. Congress previously recognized the financial toll on families in situations like this when the Department of Education granted loan forgiveness to families with students who became totally and permanently disabled as a result of the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001.

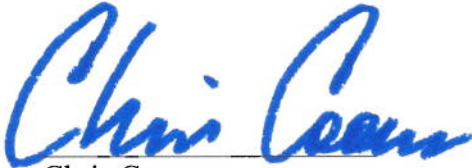
We reiterate the message from our previous letter and urge you to discharge all Parent PLUS loans borrowed on behalf of students who become totally and permanently disabled. Should the Department be unable or unwilling to forgive Parent PLUS loans in the circumstance described above, please explain why this is not possible and what Congress and the Department can do to achieve this forgiveness.

We are concerned that it has been six months since we sent our original inquiry, and we still have not received a reply. A copy of our original inquiry is enclosed. Thank you for your attention to this important issue. We look forward to a prompt reply.

Sincerely,



Rob Portman  
U.S. Senator



Chris Coons  
U.S. Senator



Peter Roskam  
U.S. Representative



James Langevin  
U.S. Representative