

LINCOLN DAVIS  
4TH DISTRICT, TENNESSEE  
SENIOR WHIP



COMMITTEES:  
FINANCIAL SERVICES  
AGRICULTURE

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, DC 20515-4204  
April 17, 2007

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker of the House  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-232, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Madame Speaker:

The postsecondary schools in Tennessee's 4th Congressional District participate in the Federal Family Education Loan Program (FFELP) and the Federal Direct Student Loan Program (FDLP). While the overwhelming majority of these 4th District schools participate in FFELP, we believe that competition between the two programs, and within FFELP itself, benefit students, their families and taxpayers.

While interested in exploring positive ways Congress can improve both loan programs, I am concerned that recent budget and policy proposals could damage FFELP's ability to continue to provide not only low-cost loans, but also the products, services and technological innovations which have greatly improved the ability of American families to access and finance higher education.

As you know, under last year's Deficit Reduction Act, FFELP's budget was cut by a total of \$18 billion (net cuts for all federal financial aid programs was \$12 billion). The true effects of those sizable cuts have yet to be fully realized. And yet, in the FY 2008 Budget request, the President has proposed another \$18 billion cut to FFELP.

Another round of student loan cuts of this size are inconsistent with the desire to meet the needs of the low-income and middle-income families these programs serve. In addition, these cuts will likely reduce the effective competition both within FFELP and between loan programs, which in turn will result in fewer options for students. By undermining this competition, we risk sacrificing reduced student loan costs for students and parents, rolling back numerous consumer-focused innovations in technology and services, and eroding the reduced federal loan default rates which have reached historic lows.

As Congress seeks to guarantee access to higher education and make college more affordable, I urge caution in seeking to enact legislation which could destabilize the constructive balance between FDLP and FFELP.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lincoln Davis".

Lincoln Davis  
Member of Congress

LD:ns

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Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-4204  
April 17, 2007

The Honorable John Larson  
Democratic Caucus Vice-Chairman  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1005 Longworth HOB  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Larson:

The postsecondary schools in Tennessee's 4th Congressional District participate in the Federal Family Education Loan Program (FFELP) and the Federal Direct Student Loan Program (FDLP). While the overwhelming majority of these 4th District schools participate in FFELP, we believe that competition between the two programs, and within FFELP itself, benefit students, their families and taxpayers.

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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, DC 20515-4204  
April 17, 2007

The Honorable Rahm Emanuel  
Democratic Caucus Chairman  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1420 Longworth HOB  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Democratic Caucus Chairman:

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**Congress of the United States**  
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Washington, DC 20515-4204  
April 17, 2007

The Honorable James Clyburn  
Democratic Majority Whip  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-329, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Majority Whip:

The postsecondary schools in Tennessee's 4th Congressional District participate in the Federal Family Education Loan Program (FFELP) and the Federal Direct Student Loan Program (FDLP). While the overwhelming majority of these 4th District schools participate in FFELP, we believe that competition between the two programs, and within FFELP itself, benefit students, their families and taxpayers.

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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, DC 20515-4204  
April 17, 2007

The Honorable Steny Hoyer  
Democratic Majority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-107, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Majority Leader:

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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, DC 20515-4204  
April 17, 2007

The Honorable John Spratt  
Chairman  
House Committee on the Budget  
207 Cannon HOB  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Spratt:

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