

Enrollment and Student Services (ESS)
9th Annual Informational Summit
Federal Regulatory and ESS Updates
July 18, 2017

I. Federal Regulations Introduced to Congress this Session (referred to committee and awaiting actions or consideration)

○ *Immigration*

- FIFA Act (HR 2072)
 - Sponsored by Rep. Veasey (D-TX) and introduced on 04/06/2017
 - The Fairness in Financial Aid (FIFA) Act would allow applicants to provide a social security number or a Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN) in order to receive a Personal Identification Number (PIN) to use on the FAFSA. The change aims to ensure that mixed-status immigrant families are not prevented from accessing eligible financial aid.
- American Dream Promise Act (HR 2071)
 - Sponsored by Rep. Veasey (D-TX) and introduced on 04/06/2017
 - This bill would add, as condition of receiving federal student aid, to program participation agreements (PPAs) that “the institution will not deny a student admission at the institution on the basis of the student’s immigration or naturalization status.”
- FAFSA for All Act (HR 2070)
 - Sponsored by Rep. Veasey (D-TX) and introduced on 04/06/2017
 - Co-sponsored by 8 Democrats
 - This bill would require the Department of Education to include guidance on how dependent students with

noncitizen parents may obtain federal student aid. In addition, the bill includes provisions for an online upload tool to streamline the application process for these students.

- Bridge Act (S. 128)
 - Sponsored by Sen. Graham (R-SC) and introduced on 01/12/2017
 - Co-sponsored by 2 Republicans and 5 Democrats
 - This measure, the “Bar Removal of Individuals who Dream and Grow our Economy (BRIDGE) Act,” would provide three years of provisional protected status to recipients of deferred action status under President Obama's Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) Program and to those currently eligible but not yet participating in DACA.
 - Higher education community letter in support of BRIDGE Act – 01/12/2017
- No Funding for Sanctuary Campuses Act (HR 483)
 - Sponsored by Rep. Hunter (R-CA) and introduced on 01/12/2017
 - Co-sponsored by 14 Republicans
 - This bill prohibits federal financial aid for higher education institutions that have “sanctuary campus” policies in effect to shield or to protect undocumented students from law enforcement. Institutions would be classified as a “sanctuary campus” by the Secretary of Homeland Security based on several criteria outlined in the bill.

○ *Campus-Based Programs and Student Aid Funding*

- Federal Perkins Loan Program Extension Act (HR 2482)
 - Sponsored by Rep. Stefanik (R-NY) and introduced on 05/17/2017

- Co-sponsored by 10 Republicans and 30 Democrats
 - This bill would extend the Federal Perkins Loan Program for two additional years, thereby moving its authorization expiration from September 30, 2017, to September 30, 2019. Supported by NASFAA (National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators), the bill is a simple two-year extension of the previous extension of the program in 2015, meaning graduate and professional students will regain eligibility for a year before becoming ineligible again the following year.
 - Bipartisan Bill Would Extend Perkins By Two Years – 05/18/2017
- College for All Act (S. 306, HR 1880)
 - Sponsored by Sen. Sanders (I-VT) and introduced on 04/03/2017, and Rep. Pramila (D-WA) and introduced on 04/04/2017
 - Co-sponsored by 6 Senate Democrats and 26 House Democrats
 - This comprehensive piece of legislation would create a grant program to states to eliminate tuition at public 4-year colleges and universities and tribal colleges for students from any family making \$125,000 or less. The bill would cut interest rates and impose an interest rate cap of 5% for undergraduate borrowers and 8.25% for graduate and parent borrowers, while also allowing borrowers to refinance loans at the current interest rates. Any excess revenue in the Direct Loan Program would be redirected into the Pell Grant Program. The bill would also increase Federal Work Study (FWS) authorized funding levels.

○ *Consumer Information and Transparency*

- College Transparency Act (S. 1121, HR 2434)
 - Sponsored by Sen. Hatch (R-UT) and introduced on 05/05/2017, and Rep. Mitchell (R-MI) and introduced on 05/16/2017
 - Co-sponsored by 1 Republican and 2 Democrats on the Senate side and 6 Republicans and 3 Democrats on the House side
 - This bill would create a new “postsecondary student data system,” thereby repealing the ban on the federal government from collecting student-level data. Supported by NASFAA, the bill aims to modernize the federal data reporting system, reducing data reporting burdens on institutions. The data system would contain data elements related to student enrollment, persistence, retention, transfer, and completion measures. The bill contains several privacy provisions and includes prohibitions on the collection of certain information, including religion, course grades, and citizenship status, among others. Ultimately, the new data collection will be used to create a user-friendly portal for the public to compare institutions. The bill’s provisions apply to all institutions of higher education that receive Title IV federal student aid.
 - Bipartisan Group of Senators Push to end Student Unit Record Ban – 05/16/2017
- Understanding the True Cost of College Act (S. 888)
 - Sponsored by Sen. Grassley (R-IA) and introduced on 04/07/2017
 - Co-sponsored by 1 Democrat
 - This bill would require a standardized financial aid award letter that includes cost of attendance, grant aid, net cost after subtracting grant aid, work study assistance, eligible amounts of federal student loans, expected federal loan monthly repayment amounts, and several disclosures.

- Sen. Franken Introduces Bill to Standardize Award Letters – 05/25/2012
- LEADS Act (HR 1429)
 - Sponsored by Rep. Messer (R-IN) and introduced on 03/08/2017
 - Co-sponsored by 5 Republicans and 1 Democrat
 - This bill, the Letter of Estimated Annual Debt for Students (LEADS) Act, would require schools to provide students with annual notices of student loan borrowing amounts. The notice would include the cumulative balance of education loans owed by the student at that date, the amount of any new loans to be disbursed during the academic year, the projected cumulative balance of education loans that will be owed after graduation, and projected monthly payment amounts assuming a standard repayment plan.
 - The U.S. Department of Education would create a template for schools to comply.

○ *Loans and Repayment*

- Private Student Loan Bankruptcy Fairness Act (HR 2527)
 - Sponsored by Rep. Cohen (D-TN) and introduced on 05/18/2017
 - Co-sponsored by 21 Democrats
 - This bill would allow private student loans to be discharged in bankruptcy.
- FAIR Student Credit Act (S. 1066)
 - Sponsored by Sen. Peters (D-MI) and introduced on 05/08/2017
 - Co-sponsored by 1 Republican
 - This bill, the Federal Adjustment in Reporting (FAIR) Student Credit Act, would allow private loan lenders the ability to offer a loan rehabilitation program with the result of removing a private student loan default from a

borrower's credit history if successfully completed. This private loan rehabilitation program would only be available one time per loan if a lender chooses to implement such a program.

- Discharge Student Loans in Bankruptcy Act (HR 2366)
 - Sponsored by Rep. Delaney (D-MD) and introduced on 05/04/2017
 - Co-sponsored by 1 Republican and 11 Democrats
 - This bill would allow all student loans, including both private and government loans, to be discharged in bankruptcy.
- PLUS Loan Disability Forgiveness Act (HR 2270)
 - Sponsored by Rep. Langevin (D-RI) and introduced on 05/01/2017
 - Co-sponsored by 2 Republicans and 1 Democrat
 - This bill would allow parent PLUS loans to be discharged in the case of a total and permanent disability (TPD) of the student on whose behalf the parent has received the loan.
- Protection of Social Security Benefits Restoration Act (S. 959)
 - Sponsored by Sen. Wyden (D-OR) and introduced on 04/27/2017
 - Co-sponsored by 10 Democrats and 1 Independent
 - This bill would prohibit the federal government from seizing Social Security benefits for unpaid federal debts, including student loans.
- Access to Frontline Health Care Act (HR 2042)
 - Sponsored by Rep. Loebsack (D-IA) and introduced on 04/06/2017
 - This bill would establish a "Frontline Providers Loan Repayment Program" within the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) under the Public Health

Service Act. The new loan repayment program would allow for repayment assistance for health professionals who commit to two years of service in “frontline scarcity areas.” Amount of loan repayment assistance to be determined by the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

- Student Security Act (HR 1937)
 - Sponsored by Rep. Garrett (R-VA) and introduced on 04/05/2017
 - This bill would provide loan forgiveness “credits” to federal student loan borrowers in exchange for voluntarily delaying receipt of social security benefits. Each credit equals \$550 in loan cancellations. The number of credits a borrower elects to receive delays receipt of social security benefits by the equivalent number of months.
- Reigniting Opportunity for Innovators Act (S. 848)
 - Sen. Hassan (D-NH) and introduced on 04/05/2017
 - This bill aims to encourage entrepreneurship by providing the option for non-interest accruing deferment to qualifying small business start-up founders and employees for up to three years. In addition, if the start-up is located in an “economically distressed” area, founders and employees are eligible for loan cancellation up to \$20,000.
- Dynamic Repayment Act (S. 799)
 - Sponsored by Sen. Warner (D-VA) and introduced 03/30/2017
 - Co-sponsored by 1 Republican
 - This bill would replace current loans, subsidies, deferments, forbearances, and repayment options with a single loan called the Income Dependent Education Assistance (IDEA) Loan, repaid through universal income-driven repayment and employer withholding.

- **HANG UP Act (S. 564)**
 - Sponsored by Sen. Markey (D-MA) and introduced on 03/08/2017
 - Co-sponsored by 1 Republican
 - The Help Americans Never Get Unwanted Phone Calls (HANG UP) Act eliminates a provision allowing the federal government and its contractors to use predictive dialer technology to collect a debt owed to or guaranteed by the United States, which includes federal student loans.
- **Investing in Student Success Act (S. 268)**
 - Sponsored by Sen. Young (R-IN) and Sen. Rubio (R-FL) and introduced on 02/02/2017
 - This bill works to establish the legal and tax framework for income-share agreements (ISAs) as an alternative higher education financing model.
 - A student would receive private funds to finance his or her college education, and in return, would repay a certain percentage of his or her income for a fixed amount of time.
- **Stop Debt Collection Abuse Act (HR 864)**
 - Sponsored by Rep. Love (R-UT) and introduced on 02/03/2017
 - This bill amends the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act (FDCPA) to make clear that the protections from overly aggressive debt collection practices also apply to debt collection agents hired by the federal government, including servicers of federal student loans.
- **ASPIRE Act (HR 926)**
 - Sponsored by Rep. Soto (D-FL) and introduced on 02/07/2017
 - This bill, the American Science Principal and Interest Reduction and Employment Act, would forgive 25% of the loan principle of any Federal Direct Loan for students

who graduate with an undergraduate STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) degree or certificate. In addition, parents who borrow on behalf of a dependent student who graduates with an undergraduate STEM degree or certificate are eligible for 25% principle forgiveness on their PLUS Loan(s).

○ *Military and Veterans Aid*

- Guard and Reservists Education Improvement Act (HR 2257)
 - Sponsored by Rep. Wenstrup (R-OH) and introduced on 04/28/2017
 - This bill would expand the eligibility for Post-9/11 GI Bill education benefits for servicemembers who serve at least 90 days but less than 6 months of active duty by increasing the benefit payable from 40% to 50%. It would also increase the amount of eligibility for individuals who serve at least 6 months but less than 12 months from 50% to 60% benefit payable.
- Veterans Education Priority Enrollment Act (HR 1793)
 - Sponsored by Rep. Ryan (D-OH) and introduced on 03/29/2017
 - Co-sponsored by 1 Republican
 - This bill would require institutions to include recipients of military and veterans education benefits in any priority enrollment process that allows certain students (e.g., student-athletes, honors students) to enroll in courses early.
- Reducing Barriers for Veterans Education Act (HR 1206)
 - Sponsored by Rep. Messer (R-IN) and introduced on 02/21/2017
 - This bill would allow Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits to be used for fees for an institution's application for admission.

○ *Pell Grants*

- Pell Grant Preservation and Expansion Act (S. 1136, HR 2451)
 - Sponsored by Sen. Hirono (D-HI) and Rep. Davis and introduced on 05/16/2017
 - Co-sponsored by 7 Senate Democrats and 63 House Democrats
 - This bill would make a number of improvements to the Federal Pell Grant Program, many of which are long-time NASFAA recommendations. Among the funding changes, the bill would re-instate the annual inflation increase to the maximum award and make Pell funding fully “mandatory,” meaning it wouldn’t be subject to year-to-year appropriations. In terms of eligibility, the bill would allow incarcerated individuals, undocumented students, students with drug-related offenses, and students enrolled in short-term job training programs to receive Pell Grants.
 - Democrats Propose Massive Overhaul to Pell Grant Program – 05/15/2017
- Flexible Pell Grant for 21st Century Students Act (HR 1485)
 - Sponsored by Rep. Stefanik (R-NY) and introduced on 03/09/2017
 - Co-sponsored by 15 Republicans and 13 Democrats
 - This piece of legislation, reintroduced in 2017, was the basis for reauthorization of the Higher Education Act. This bill would reinstate the year-round Pell Grant award, or “Summer Pell.” Under this bill, a student could receive up to 150% of his or her scheduled award during an award year. However, a student must be using the additional scheduled award to “accelerate” his or her program of study.
 - “Accelerate” would mean that the total number of credits (or equivalent) earned during the previous payment periods in the award year plus the

credits in which the student enrolls during the additional payment period together must not exceed the number of credits in the institution's definition of academic year for the student's program of study.

○ *Quality and Accountability*

- States' Education Reclamation Act (HR 1510)
 - Sponsored by Rep. Rouzer (R-NC) and introduced on 03/10/2017
 - Co-sponsored by 1 Republican
 - This bill would eliminate the Department of Education and distribute major programs to other agencies. The Federal Pell Grant Program and all student loan programs would be transferred to the U.S. Department of the Treasury. Based on the language, Federal Work Study (FWS) and Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG) programs could be eliminated entirely.
- To Terminate the Department of Education (HR 899)
 - Sponsored by Rep. Massie (R-KY) and introduced on 02/07/2017
 - Co-sponsored by 8 Republicans
 - This bill would eliminate the Department of Education, effective December 31, 2018. The bill does not describe what would happen to the Federal Student Aid Programs.

○ *Tax Issues*

- HELP for Students and Parents Act (HR 1656)
 - Sponsored by Rep. Meehan (R-PA) and introduced on 03/21/2017
 - Co-sponsored by 3 Republicans and 3 Democrats

- This measure would provide incentives for employers to establish student loan repayment programs and to make contributions to qualified tuition programs on behalf of children of employees. The bill would make employer contributions to an employee's student debt repayment and/or to a 529 plan excludable from gross income. Employers would earn a tax credit based on the amount contributed to student debt repayment and/or 529 plans.
- Employer Participation in Student Loan Assistance Act (HR 795)
 - Sponsored by Rep. Davis (R-IL) and introduced on 02/01/2017
 - This measure allows employers to contribute pre-tax earnings to help subsidize student loan repayments for their employees, up to \$5,250 per year per employee.
- 529 and ABLE Improvement Act (HR 529)
 - Sponsored by Rep. Jenkins (R-KS) and introduced on 01/13/2017
 - Co-sponsored by 1 Democrat
 - This bill proposes tax code changes related to 529 and ABLE plans. Among the changes are tax incentives for employers to contribute to 529 and ABLE accounts. The bill also proposes the removal of penalties for using 529 funds to pay student loans.
 - ABLE means '*Achieving a Better Life Experience*' and is a college savings account for students with disabilities.

II. ESS Updates

- *Academic Block Schedule*
 - NSU is moving to a block schedule to address scheduling challenges, high levels of departmental control of space, overlapping academic semesters/terms, and conflicting and irregular class meeting times.

- The new block schedule will be implemented in the 2018-2019 academic year.
 - The implementation will occur in two phases.
 - Phase I includes all undergraduate programs, including the Health Professions Division (HPD) undergraduate programs, and graduate programs, excluding HPD graduate programs.
 - Phase II includes HPD graduate and professional programs and the College of Law. This phase will be implemented after successful implementation of Phase I.
 - A standard set of meeting times will be divided into a M/W/F (60-minute block) and a T/TH (75-minute block) model.
 - A 1-hour lunch break and a 45-minute dinner break are included in the schedule.
 - Valuable feedback was provided by faculty, students, deans, and administrators.
 - Roles and responsibilities for scheduling classes, labs, and internal events will change for campus colleagues.
- *Degree Works*
- Ellucian has released an enhanced system that will replace the Curriculum Advising and Program Planning (CAPP) module.
 - The system is closely linked to the academic block schedule for data analytics/forecasting of class needs and degree-applicable courses to assist students with progress toward degree or certificate completion.
 - Possible implementation in Winter 2019 for undergraduate programs.
 - Graduate/professional programs will follow.
 - The project plan is being finalized and needed resources have been approved.
- *ESS Regulatory Task Force*
- Twenty-one ESS team members have volunteered to serve.
 - Committee members will track proposed and new legislative initiatives from the Trump Administration as well as changes at the state level.

- Key regulatory information is shared with the Executive Administration.
- The first task force meeting was held on April 13, 2017, and a standing monthly meeting has been scheduled.
- Eight subcommittees with chairs
 - Immigration
 - Campus-Based Programs and Student Aid Funding
 - Consumer Information and Transparency
 - Loans and Repayment
 - Military and Veterans Aid
 - Pell Grants
 - Quality and Accountability
 - Tax Issues