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## United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION,  
LABOR, AND PENSIONS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6300

<http://help.senate.gov>

September 6, 2006

Hon. Margaret Spellings  
U.S. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Avenue, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20202

Dear Secretary Spellings:

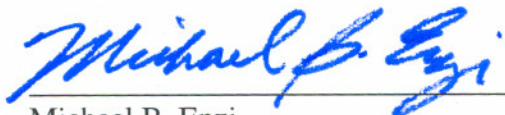
We write to express our concern about the recent proposed negotiated rulemaking notice published in the Federal Register on August 18th.

As you know, the notice states that the Department of Education may include some of the recommendations developed by the Commission on the Future of Higher Education in the negotiated rulemaking process. We have consistently supported efforts to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the federal student aid programs, but we have concerns about including the Commission recommendations in negotiated rulemaking. Although we have not yet received the final report, the draft recommendations approved by a majority of the Commission members are extremely broad and will likely require legislative action before they could be appropriately included in regulations.

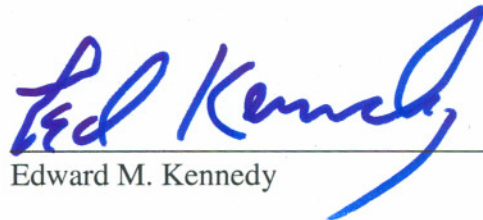
We look forward to receiving the final Commission report, along with any recommendations for legislative action, for the consideration by members of Congress. The reauthorization of the Higher Education Act is still pending, and we believe there will be numerous opportunities for Congress to consider the Commission's recommendations as part of the legislative process.

Thank you for your attention to this request, and we look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Michael B. Enzi



Edward M. Kennedy

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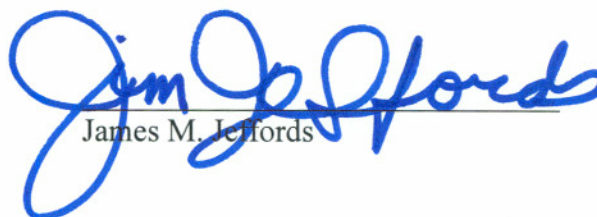
Lamar Alexander



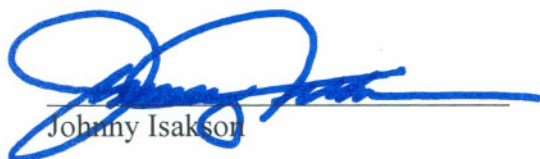
Christopher J. Dodd



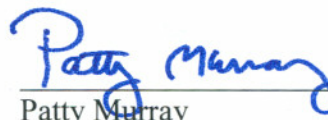
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