



Office of the President

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June 7, 2017

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Member of Congress
1233 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Ryan:

The Perkins Loan Extension Act of 2017, H.R. 2482, was introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives. We are writing to ask that you cosponsor the legislation. The bill was introduced with strong bipartisan support to extend the Federal Perkins Loan program for an additional two years beyond its current sunset date of September 30, 2017.

In March, the UW Board of Regents adopted a resolution in support of extending the Perkins Loan program until the financial aid system and student loans can be more broadly reformed through the Higher Education Act reauthorization. The UW System supports consolidation and simplification of the federal grant and loan plans. However, until those major policy questions are determined, our institutions need the ability to accommodate the high demand from financially-struggling students for financial aid.

In 2015-16, nearly 14,000 Perkins awards were made to UW System students, totaling \$25.4 million. Our institutions have contributed significantly to the program over the years, underwriting at least one-third of the necessary funds to a revolving loan fund that serves students with unmet needs.

Again, thank you for your consideration of this request to cosponsor H.R. 2482, the Perkins Loan Extension Act of 2017. Please contact Patrick Hester with Congresswoman Elise Stefanik by email at Patrick.hester@mail.house.gov or Alicia Molt with Congressman Mark Pocan by email at Alicia.molt@mail.house.gov to cosponsor the bill.

Respectfully,

The President and Chancellors of the
University of Wisconsin System

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ray Cross".

Ray Cross, President

James Schmidt
Chancellor, UW-Eau Claire

Joe Gow
Chancellor, UW-La Crosse

Mark Mone
Chancellor, UW-Milwaukee

Deborah L. Ford
Chancellor, UW-Parkside

Dean Van Galen
Chancellor, UW-River Falls

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Dennis Shields
Chancellor, UW-Platteville

Bernie Patterson
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Renée Wachter
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Cathy Sandeen
Chancellor, UW Colleges/Extension