

Nonprofit Sector Workforce Coalition
A National Campaign to Recruit, Prepare, and Retain a
Skilled and Diverse Next-Generation of Nonprofit Sector Leadership

Coalition Members

Alliance for Nonprofit
Management*
America's Second Harvest
American Humanics*
AmeriCorps
Annie E. Casey Foundation*
Arizona State University
Center for Nonprofit
Leadership &
Management*
Association for Research on
Nonprofit Organizations
and Voluntary Action
Boy Scouts of America
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Georgetown University
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Points of Light Foundation
Project on Student Debt
Public Allies
University of Missouri-
Kansas City Midwest
Center for Nonprofit
Leadership*
Volunteers of America
YMCA of the USA
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Committee Members

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June 22, 2006

The Honorable Margaret Spellings
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20202

**ADMINISTRATIVE PETITION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
REGARDING PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO STUDENT LOAN
REPAYMENT REGULATIONS**

Dear Secretary Spellings:

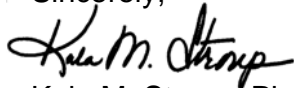
As members of the Nonprofit Sector Workforce Coalition, we write to support the goals of the administrative petition submitted to the Department on May 4, 2006. To ensure that nonprofit careers remain truly open to those called to serve the greater good, we urge the Department to set more manageable levels for required payments on federal student loans, and make federal repayment assistance more accessible to borrowers (especially those who chose to work in nonprofit organizations and schools).

The nonprofit sector is particularly concerned about sustaining a skilled and diverse workforce in light of the burden of rising student debt. The 2003-04 National Postsecondary Student Aid Study shows that two-thirds of baccalaureate recipients now graduate with education debt, and, after accounting for inflation, their average debt has increased by more than 50 percent in the past decade.

Whether responding to a national crisis like Hurricane Katrina, or helping at-risk youth stay in school, nonprofit organizations provide critical services and support for communities across the country and around the world. To recruit and retain the next generation of nonprofit leaders, we rely not only on college graduates' interest in public service, but also on their financial capacity to work and remain in this critical sector. That capacity is increasingly limited by rising student loan burdens and the lack of meaningful options for linking payments more closely to actual earnings.

We urge the Secretary to respond to the current reality of increasing student debt burdens and the petitioners' recommendations by opening a rulemaking with the purpose of improving student debt manageability.

Sincerely,



Kala M. Stroup, Ph.D.
President, American Humanics
Nonprofit Sector Workforce Coalition

Facilitated by American Humanics, the Nonprofit Sector Workforce Coalition is committed to working collaboratively on strategies to attract, retain, and develop a skilled, committed, and diverse nonprofit sector workforce.