

DAVID LOEBSACK

2ND DISTRICT, IOWA

COMMITTEES:

ARMED SERVICES

SUBCOMMITTEES:

MILITARY PERSONNEL  
READINESS

EDUCATION AND LABOR

SUBCOMMITTEES:

HEALTH, EMPLOYMENT, LABOR,  
AND PENSIONS

EARLY CHILDHOOD, ELEMENTARY  
AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-1502**

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April 24, 2012

The Honorable John Boehner  
Speaker of the House  
H-232, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable John Kline  
Chairman, U.S. House Committee on Education and the Workforce  
2181 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Kline and Speaker Boehner,

As someone who helped craft and pass the College Cost Reduction and Access Act and other legislation that has improved and strengthened student financial aid, I write you today to ask you to bring legislation before the House Education and Workforce Committee and to the House Floor as soon as possible to prevent a doubling of student loan interest rates. As you know, student loan interest rates are currently 3.4 percent for subsidized undergraduate loans. However, if Congress does not act by July 1st, the rate will double to 6.8 percent.

With tuition rising rapidly and far too many Iowans struggling to make ends meet, middle-class families are finding it more and more difficult to pay for college. I grew up in poverty, and I would not have had the opportunity to attend college without financial assistance. That is why I strongly believe that every student deserves the opportunity to attend college if they wish to pursue higher education; no hard-working Iowan should have their dreams and future job opportunities curtailed because they can't afford to pay tuition.

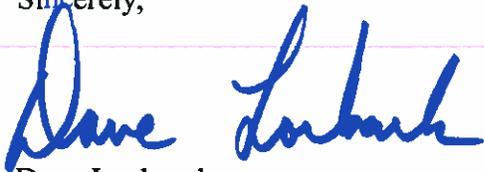
As a member of the Education and the Workforce Committee and a strong supporter of federal financial aid programs, I have worked on numerous pieces of legislation to ensure increased access to higher education. The College Cost Reduction and Access Act, which I helped craft and pass, made college more affordable and accessible for all Iowans by increasing the maximum Pell Grant scholarship and expanding eligibility. I am also proud to have cosponsored the Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act, H.R. 3221. I supported this legislation in the House of Representatives on September 17, 2009, and it was included in the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010, H.R. 4872, which was signed into law on March 30, 2010. This bill saves American taxpayers \$61 billion by making the student loan process more efficient. The bill further expanded the maximum Pell Grant available from \$5,550 in 2010 to \$5,975 in 2017, granting Iowa students more than \$291 million for higher education. This bill was the largest single investment in student aid in America's history; it made college more

accessible, transformed the way our student loan programs operate, and strengthened our community colleges.

We cannot turn back the clock on all of this progress. It is extremely important that we work to address student loan interest rates now because without Congressional action, 7 million low- and middle-income families will be subject to a \$6 billion interest rate hike. This would add \$1,000 to the average borrower's debt, and since Iowa borrowers have some of the highest student loan debt in the nation, this change will have a disproportionate effect on the students and families I represent. That is why I am a proud cosponsor of HR 3826, a bill that would maintain the 3.4 percent interest rate for subsidized undergraduate loans.

Again, I urge you to bring legislation before the Committee and to the Floor that prevents student loan interest rates from doubling in a few short months. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dave Loeb sack". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "D".

Dave Loeb sack  
Iowa's 2<sup>nd</sup> District