I write to express items that I support, as well as areas of deep concern, regarding H.R. 4508, the Promoting Real Opportunity, Success, and Prosperity through Education Reform (PROSPER) Act.

Specifically, I support the inclusion of measures to simplify the process of applying for federal aid, provide a bonus to Pell Grant recipients to incentivize completion, eliminate loan origination fees, redevelop the federal work study formula, and provide institutions the authority to limit borrowing, among others. Additionally, I strongly support language included in the bill to advance the Reverse Transfer Efficiency Act of 2017 (H.R. 3774).

However, I am extremely concerned about numerous other provisions that would negatively impact students and institutions. The elimination of the in-school interest subsidy for undergraduate students, the elimination of the Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant program, and the elimination of loan forgiveness and other benefits currently available in the student loan programs would immediately increase the cost of college. The bill would also limit federal graduate loans and reduce funding for the TRIO program by $50 million. Additionally, the legislation would make significant changes in federal higher education policy without a clear understanding of the likely consequences, including weakening federal oversight of fraud and abuse in the federal aid system and revising the return of Title IV funds.

I urge you to modify the language of the PROSPER Act to strengthen the legislation by addressing these concerns. Instead of moving this legislation forward, it is my hope that you will put the interests of students first and revise this bill accordingly to reduce cost and increase accountability.

Sincerely,