



**STATEMENT:  
ASSOCIATION OF YOUNG AMERICANS ON THE AIM HIGHER ACT**

**Washington D.C. – July 24, 2018** – On behalf of our 8,000 members across all 50 states, the [Association of Young Americans \(AYA\)](#) supports the Aim Higher Act and believes this bill, if enacted, would make college more accessible and affordable for our nation’s students and ensure institutions of higher education are accountable to the students they serve. Formed in 2016, AYA advocates on behalf of young Americans on the issues that matter most to them, including the rising cost of obtaining a higher education and the insurmountable debt many students take on to attend college.

AYA is pleased that the Aim Higher Act includes many programs and provisions that would make college more accessible to underserved students by supporting dual-enrollment programs, strengthening TRIO and GEAR UP, and simplifying the FAFSA application. Further, AYA is extremely grateful that this legislation strengthens financial aid programs, including raising the Pell Grant award by \$500 each year and making Pell funding mandatory.

AYA’s founder, Ben Brown, explains: “The Aim Higher Act truly puts young Americans first by simplifying the loan process and ensuring that students are educated about their loans. The bill would also make managing college debt easier by helping students avoid default. All of these provisions are critical to improving the higher education system in our country.”

Specifically, AYA supports the provisions in the bill that would require loan counseling, eliminate origination fees, and create a simplified income-based repayment plan with automatic enrollment after 120 days of missed payments. Additionally, AYA is pleased that the bill preserves and expands the Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) program, which incentivizes young Americans to stay in their communities and work in public service by permitting them to discharge the remainder of their loans after ten years of public service.

AYA also believes that all students have a right to complete and accurate data to help them make informed decisions about one of the largest financial investments in their lives. AYA supports the provisions that would lift the ban on student unit records and would require the creation of a data system based on student level data including enrollment, completion, and post college success.

AYA believes that the Aim Higher Act, if passed into law, would be a victory for young Americans, and looks forward to continuing to collaborate with the Committee on behalf of our members across the country.

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**ABOUT AYA:**

Association of Young Americans (AYA) is a non-partisan, membership organization that was created to give young people a seat at the table. AYA offers young people their politics on-demand – and without the bulls\*\*t. AYA has created a go-to information hub for information about the issues young people care about the most including reducing student debt, lowering the cost of higher education, reforming a broken criminal justice system, and fighting climate change. AYA also lobbies on behalf of young Americans to improve the higher education system and make college more affordable. By becoming members of AYA, young people can actively engage with their political representatives and have their voices heard, while also receiving perks and discounts from brands who align with their values. For more on Association of Young Americans, visit <https://joinaya.com> and connect with AYA on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).