



March 1, 2018

The Honorable Lamar Alexander
Chairman
Senate Committee on Health, Education,
Labor and Pensions
455 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Health, Education,
Labor and Pensions
154 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Virginia Foxx
Chairman
House Committee on Education and Workforce
2262 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Robert Scott
Ranking Member
House Committee on Education and Workforce
1201 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen Alexander and Foxx, Ranking Members Murray and Scott:

On behalf of the men and women of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and its Auxiliary, I write to express our concern with H.R. 4508, the *PROSPER Act* which would eliminate the Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) and repeal requirements that institutions of higher learning receive at least 10 percent of its revenue from non-Title IV programs.

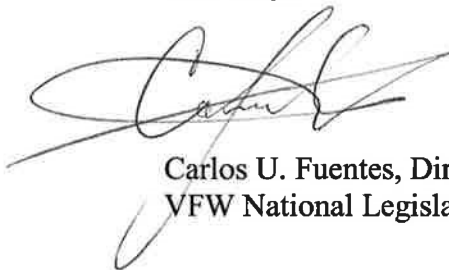
The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has struggled with staffing issues for years. There are nearly 40,000 unfilled positions at VA, and without better and more effective hiring practices this employment gap will continue. It takes too long for VA to hire new doctors, nurses, administrators and claims adjudicators, and VA faces unique difficulties in matching competitive salaries with the private market. The PSLF program is an important tool VA uses to recruit and retain the best and the brightest. Public service is a noble calling that VFW members know all too well. There is, however, sometimes a need for incentives to supplement the sentiment of service. The VFW fears stripping VA of this recruitment tool would limit its ability to provide veterans and their families the care and benefits they have earned.

By eliminating the 90-10 regulation the *PROSPER Act* would allow schools to mislead and prey on military-connected students so they can be funded solely by federal dollars. The VFW urges Congress to strengthen, not erode, protections for students who rely on federal programs to achieve their educational goals. Removing the 90-10 regulation without replacing it with another regulation that protects military and veteran students would allow predatory institutions to target hard-earned education benefit dollars.

NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.

The VFW calls on you to amend H.R. 4508 to retain the PSLF program for VA and keep in place financial regulations that protect student veterans. Our Nation's veterans are counting on you to improve, not eliminate, programs which ensure they are able to accomplish their post-military educational goals.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carlos U. Fuentes', written in a cursive style with a large initial 'C'.

Carlos U. Fuentes, Director
VFW National Legislative Service