

August 16, 2024

[Senator/Congressman's Name]

[Office Address]

[City, State, ZIP Code]

Dear [Senator/Congressman's Name],

I am writing to you as President of the Eastern Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (EASFAA), representing nearly 2,000 financial aid administrators, and as a dedicated student and financial aid advocate. We recently learned about the U.S. Department of Education's announcement regarding the delay in the availability of batch processing for FAFSA corrections for the 2024-25 academic year. This delay has severe implications for our students and institutions.

The ability to submit batch corrections is crucial for the efficient and timely processing of financial aid applications. Without it, financial aid professionals are now forced to manually submit corrections one by one, a process that is indescribably labor-intensive and time-consuming. This delay will undoubtedly and significantly affect the disbursement of financial aid to students, with a disproportionate impact on those from vulnerable backgrounds who rely on these funds to begin the academic year.

We are particularly concerned about the amount of time our institutions are currently spending on the implementation and compliance of the Financial Value Transparency (FVT) and Gainful Employment (GE) regulations. This time, which could be better spent counseling and supporting our students, is instead being consumed by the complexities and uncertainties surrounding these new requirements. The administrative burden is detracting from our primary mission: to assist students in navigating the financial aid process and ensuring they receive the support they need to succeed academically.

Additionally, the delays in receiving FAFSA data this year have further compounded our concerns. These delays put our financial aid offices under unprecedented strain, and we fear that the 2025-26 academic year may not fare much better. The uncertainty surrounding FAFSA data availability and the ongoing challenges with FVT/GE implementation place our students and institutions at a significant disadvantage.

Given these concerns, we strongly urge you to advocate for a delay in the implementation of the FVT/GE regulations until July 2025. A delay would allow institutions the necessary time to properly understand and prepare for these requirements without compromising the critical services we provide to our students. We believe that a thoughtful and measured approach to these regulations will ultimately benefit both students and institutions, ensuring that we can continue to fulfill our responsibilities effectively.

We ask for your support in pushing for immediate solutions to these problems and for increased accountability and resources from the Department of Education to prevent such delays and confusion in the future.

Thank you for your attention to this critical issue. We look forward to your support in ensuring that our students can receive the financial aid they need without further delays and that institutions can comply with regulations without undue burden.

Sincerely,

Taylor Kreutter, EASFAA President

Executive Director of Student Financial Services at Mount Holyoke College

Kenneth Ferreira, EASFAA President-Elect

Vice President; Student Financial Services at Franklin Pierce University

Gena Boling, EASFAA Vice President

Katherine Anderson, EASFAA Treasurer

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Tanner Machtus, President of Vermont Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators

Carmen Rivera Laboy, Puerto Rico Representative

Amy Staffier, Massachusetts Representative

Assistant Vice President, Enrollment Student Services & Director of Financial Aid, Simmons University

David Blackmon, President of Connecticut Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators

Dr. Charles M. Scheetz, Tri-State Chair, EASFAA

Director of Financial Aid, Hagerstown Community College

Patti (Beers) Donahue, President of New York State Financial Aid Administrators Association

Suzanne Faulkner, New Hampshire State Representative, EASFAA

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Henry Crawford III, Chair of Training, EASFAA

Executive Director of Financial Aid, University of Pittsburgh

Mika Lim, Committee at Large Member, EASFAA

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Stephanie Spiller, Maine State Representative, EASFAA

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Kendrick Myles, Committee at Large Member, EASFAA

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