



July 28, 2020

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Senate Majority Leader
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Senate Minority Leader
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Leader McConnell and Leader Schumer,

As Congress negotiates the next COVID-19 relief bill, AccessLex Institute urges you to support public service workers by including provisions from S.1203, the *What You Can Do for Your Country Act*. We believe the federal government must ensure that it keeps its promise to those Americans who are risking their health and safety as nurses, teachers, and other essential workers during the COVID-19 pandemic by strengthening the Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) program.

AccessLex Institute, in partnership with its nearly 200 nonprofit and state-affiliated ABA-approved member law schools, has been committed to improving access to legal education and to maximizing the affordability and value of a law degree since 1983. The AccessLex Center for Legal Education Excellence advocates for policies that make legal education work better for students and society alike and conducts research on the most critical issues facing legal education today.

The PSLF program, enacted with bipartisan support in 2007, encourages individuals to pursue and persist in public service careers that benefit communities across this country. PSLF has been a vital recruitment tool for the best and the brightest to serve millions of Americans, especially in high-need and rural areas. However, despite the benefits, issues with implementation have shown that there is room for improvement through creating efficiencies in the program and reducing administrative and procedural burdens on these public servants.

The *What You Can Do for Your Country Act* would make technical fixes by, among other provisions, requiring better up-front information be given to borrowers, allowing borrowers to consolidate their loans without losing credit toward forgiveness, and expanding eligibility to more federal loan types and to all loan repayment plans.

These proposed changes would go a long way in ensuring that the federal government provides the student loan forgiveness that Congress created over a decade ago and recognizes the vital work being done by our public servants, which is needed now more than ever. Thus, AccessLex Institute supports strengthening the promise of PSLF by including provisions of the *What You Can Do for Your Country Act* in the next COVID-19 relief bill.

AccessLex stands ready to work with Congress on this and any future policy changes that may be necessary to support student loan borrowers as the COVID-19 pandemic continues. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at cchapman@accesslex.org or Nancy Conneely, Director of Policy, at nconneely@accesslex.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris S", written in a cursive style.

Christopher P. Chapman
President and Chief Executive Officer

Cc: Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee
