

## **INSTRUCTIONS TO HELP CHANGE THE U.S. LAW THAT PROHIBITS ONLINE COURSES FOR FEDERAL LOAN BORROWERS AT FOREIGN SCHOOLS**

Help ensure the [Providing Distance Education for Foreign Institutions Act](#) (S. 1168) is passed into Law. WITHOUT THIS BILL, AMERICAN STUDENTS STUDYING OUTSIDE OF THE U.S. WILL NOT BE ELIGIBLE FOR FEDERAL LOANS IF THEY TAKE EVEN ONE ONLINE COURSE AFTER JUNE 30, 2023.

Please write to your Members of Congress as soon as possible, and have your friends and family write too!

- **House of Representatives:** Visit [www.house.gov](http://www.house.gov), and enter your U.S. zip code in the "House Overview" box, and click "Find." From there, you can click the 'computer' icon below your representative's photo, which will take you to the Member's webpage where you will find the Washington, DC office telephone number. Ask for the "Education Legislative Assistant's" contact information. Then you can copy and paste the letter template into an email to send them. *Alternatively, contact [Sarah Lamson](#), and she will provide you with the appropriate contact information.*
- **Senate:** Visit <https://www.senate.gov/senators/senators-contact.htm>, and choose your home state in the "Choose Your State" dropdown box at the top of the page. Similarly, you will find the office telephone number that you can call to receive contact information for the Education Legislative Assistant. *Again, you can alternatively contact [Sarah Lamson](#), and she will provide you with the appropriate contact information.*
- **Use the letter template below to express your concerns.** Please let our Washington colleagues [Harrison Wadsworth](mailto:hwadsworth@bosepublicaffairs.com) ([hwadsworth@bosepublicaffairs.com](mailto:hwadsworth@bosepublicaffairs.com)) or [Sarah Lamson](mailto:slamson@bosepublicaffairs.com) ([slamson@bosepublicaffairs.com](mailto:slamson@bosepublicaffairs.com)) know if you have submitted a letter to your Senator, or c.c. them on the communication that you send.

If you need any assistance or would like further information, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at [cara.piperni@mcgill.ca](mailto:cara.piperni@mcgill.ca) .

## **Letter Template**

(Date)

The Honorable (Full Name)

Office address

United States Senate/House

Washington, D.C. 20510 OR 20515

Dear Senator (last name),

My name is (name), and I am a U.S. Citizen currently attending (university name) in (country). As your constituent, I am writing to ask that you support the *Providing Distance Education for Foreign Institutions Act (S.1168)*. This bill would remove a provision of the Higher Education Act (HEA) that cuts off my access to federal student loans if I enroll in a program of study at a foreign institution that includes any online class options, even if I don't actually take an online class.

This current prohibition on distance education closes off access to high-quality education at international universities for most American students, given recent technological advancements in education. I ask that you support prompt passage of the *Providing Distance Education for Foreign Institutions Act*, which would update the HEA and ensure international education options remain available for American students choosing to finance their education abroad through federal loans. The bill allows students to take approximately one online class a year without being cut off from federal loans. **Quick passage of the bill is crucial, either as stand-alone legislation or within a larger package, such as appropriations.** The risk and uncertainty of being able to finance our education is already affecting students like me who are enrolled in foreign schools or are submitting their applications.

Again, I ask that you support the *Providing Distance Education for Foreign Institutions Act* so that students studying abroad and physically present at a foreign campus can enroll in programs of study that offer online courses or online course components. My college is a member of the International Education Council, which can provide more information. You can contact them at [hwadsworth@bosepublicaffairs.com](mailto:hwadsworth@bosepublicaffairs.com).

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter. Please continue access to international educational opportunities for American students.

Sincerely,

(Your Name)  
(Your Address)  
(Your City, State, Zip)  
(Your Phone Number)

**TO ALL USDL STUDENTS EXCEPT FROM VERMONT, MAY 12, 2023:**

Subject: Urgent action needed to preserve your ability to receive U.S. Federal Loans

Dear [Preferred First Name].

Further to my email of April 24<sup>th</sup>, I am urgently seeking help from all of McGill's students using U.S. federal loans.

Thank you if you've already written to your Senator. As the process continues, we are urgently requesting additional student engagement in gaining further support for the [Providing Distance Education for Foreign Institutions Act](#) (S. 1168) in order to pass. WITHOUT THIS BILL, AMERICAN STUDENTS STUDYING OUTSIDE OF THE U.S. WILL NOT BE ELIGIBLE FOR FEDERAL LOANS IF THEY TAKE EVEN ONE ONLINE COURSE AFTER JUNE 30, 2023.

Please write to your senator as soon as possible, and have your friends and family write too!

- 1) Visit [www.senate.gov](http://www.senate.gov), and choose your home state in the "Find Your Senators" drop box at the top of the page. Then you can click "Contact" under your Senators' photos. From there, you will be provided with instructions on how to contact their office.
- 2) Use the letter template below to express your concerns and ask for their passage of Senate Bill 1168.

Please let our Washington colleagues [Harrison Wadsworth](#) ([hwadsworth@bosepublicaffairs.com](mailto:hwadsworth@bosepublicaffairs.com)) or [Sarah Lamson](#) ([slamson@bosepublicaffairs.com](mailto:slamson@bosepublicaffairs.com)) know if you have submitted a letter to your Senator, or c.c. them on the communication that you send.

If you need any assistance or would like further information, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at [cara.piperni@mcgill.ca](mailto:cara.piperni@mcgill.ca).

## Letter Template

(Date)

The Honorable (full name – use [this link](#) to find your Senators)  
Office address (e.g. 703 Hart Senate Office Building)  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator (last name),

My name is (name), and I am a U.S. Citizen currently attending McGill University in Canada. As your constituent, I am urgently writing to ask that you support the *Providing Distance Education for Foreign*

*Institutions Act* ([S. 1168](#)) that would remove a provision in the Higher Education Act (HEA) that prohibits foreign institutions from participating in the U.S. Federal Direct Loan Program if the school offers any online learning in a program of study, even if the American student does not enroll in the online course offered.

An exemption to this rule contained in the CARES Act of 2020 will expire June 30 and close off access to high-quality education at international universities for most American students. I ask that you support prompt passage of S. 1168, which would update the HEA and ensure international education options remain available for American students choosing to finance their education abroad through federal loans. The bill allows students to take approximately one online class a year without being cut off from federal loans. Quick passage of the bill is crucial, as the CARES Act exemption is expiring, and the risk and uncertainty of being able to finance our education is already affecting students like me who are enrolled in foreign schools or are submitting their applications.

I ask that you support the *Providing Distance Education for Foreign Institutions Act* so that students studying abroad and physically present at a foreign campus can enroll in programs of study that offer online courses or online course components. My university is a member of the International Education Council, which can provide more information. You can contact Harrison at [hwadsworth@bosepublicaffairs.com](mailto:hwadsworth@bosepublicaffairs.com) and Sarah at [slamson@bosepublicaffairs.com](mailto:slamson@bosepublicaffairs.com)

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter. Please continue access to international educational opportunities for American students.

Sincerely,

(Your Name)  
(Your Address)  
(Your City, State, Zip)  
(Your Phone Number)

