

AMERICA'S STUDENT
LOAN PROVIDERS

www.aslp.us



Contact: Kevin Bruns
202.721.1190/Kevin@aslp.info

STATEMENT ON FINANCIAL AID FORM SIMPLIFICATION

WASHINGTON (June 24, 2009) – Kevin Bruns, executive director of America's Student Loan Providers, released the following statement in response to the U.S. Department of Education's announcement of steps to simplify the Free Application for Federal Student Aid:

"The U.S. Department of Education's efforts to simplify the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) are important and long overdue. America's Student Loan Providers encourages the Department to continue its efforts to simplify the process, working in consultation with the financial aid community and state grant and scholarship agencies.

"FAFSA simplification is important to increasing access to postsecondary education. As recent studies have shown, its complexity has been a real barrier to higher education for many families. FAFSA simplification also has implications for the administration of state-based and institutional aid programs.

"As participants in the FFEL Program, lenders and guaranty agencies have long offered college students and their families step-by-step assistance in navigating the complex student aid application process. We're encouraged by the Administration's progress in this area and will continue to provide the valuable guidance and services that help students realize the lifelong benefits of a higher education."

America's Student Loan Providers represents the nation's leading private, nonprofit and state-based education and financial organizations that provide federally guaranteed student loans through the Federal Family Education Loan Program. By leveraging private financial markets and competing for the right to lend to students, ASLP members offer low-cost loans and superior levels of service to millions of students and most of the 4,400 postsecondary institutions that participate in FFELP. More information is available at www.aslp.us or call 202.721.1190

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