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Special Edition | March 4, 2009

President Obama's Budget Proposal

The Student Loan Guarantee Foundation of Arkansas (SLGFA) applauds and supports President Obama's commitment to higher education and agrees that higher education should be a priority for our country. However, we at SLGFA do not agree with his plan for funding higher education.

President Obama's budget proposal includes a recommendation to eliminate the Federal Family Education Loan Program (FFELP), beginning with the 2010-2011 academic year. The transition the budget proposal calls for is for all student loans to be funded under the direct loan program beginning July 1, 2010. Full budget details will be available during the coming weeks.

Here are some things we need to remember:

- ◆ The president's budget proposal is just that — a proposal. It will go through many evolutions before it becomes law.
- ◆ FFELP and SLGFA have served the students and families of Arkansas for more than 40 years.
- ◆ If the budget does pass the way it is written, it will not be effective until 2010-2011 and SLGFA and its industry partners are here to provide funding and services for the 2009-2010 academic year.
- ◆ This does not have to be a one-sided debate. We, as guarantors, schools, lenders, students, and parents, will have an opportunity to present to Congress why eliminating the FFELP is not good public policy.

Granted, the student loan industry is experiencing extraordinary challenges, but we are confident that we, along with the help of our schools and lenders, can help structure the future of FFELP.

SLGFA encourages each of you to write your representative in Congress and in the Senate and ask them to preserve this public-private partnership that has served you and your students well over the last four decades.

To reach your representative in the U.S. House of Representatives, use the form located [here](#).

Below, SLGFA has provided information for Arkansas' congressional delegation.

- ◆ [Congressman Mike Ross](#)
- ◆ [Congressman John Boozman](#)
- ◆ [Congressman Vic Snyder](#)
- ◆ [Congressman Marion Berry](#)

To reach your senators, please click on the following links:

- ◆ [Senator Mark Pryor](#)
- ◆ [Senator Blanche Lincoln](#)

If you wish to contact us, **DO NOT** reply to this e-mail, as the address is automated. Instead e-mail us at slgfa@slgfa.org, call 800-622-3446, or visit our [online staff directory](#) for staff extensions and e-mail addresses.

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E-Updates is an electronic newsletter sponsored and operated by the Student Loan Guarantee Foundation of Arkansas (SLGFA) to provide program information to schools and lenders participating in the Federal Family Education Loan Program (FFELP).