

**3rd Annual
National Financial Aid Day**

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House of Representatives

RECOGNIZING THE OBJECTIVES OF FINANCIAL AID DAY

THE HONORABLE TIMOTHY BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 24, 2011

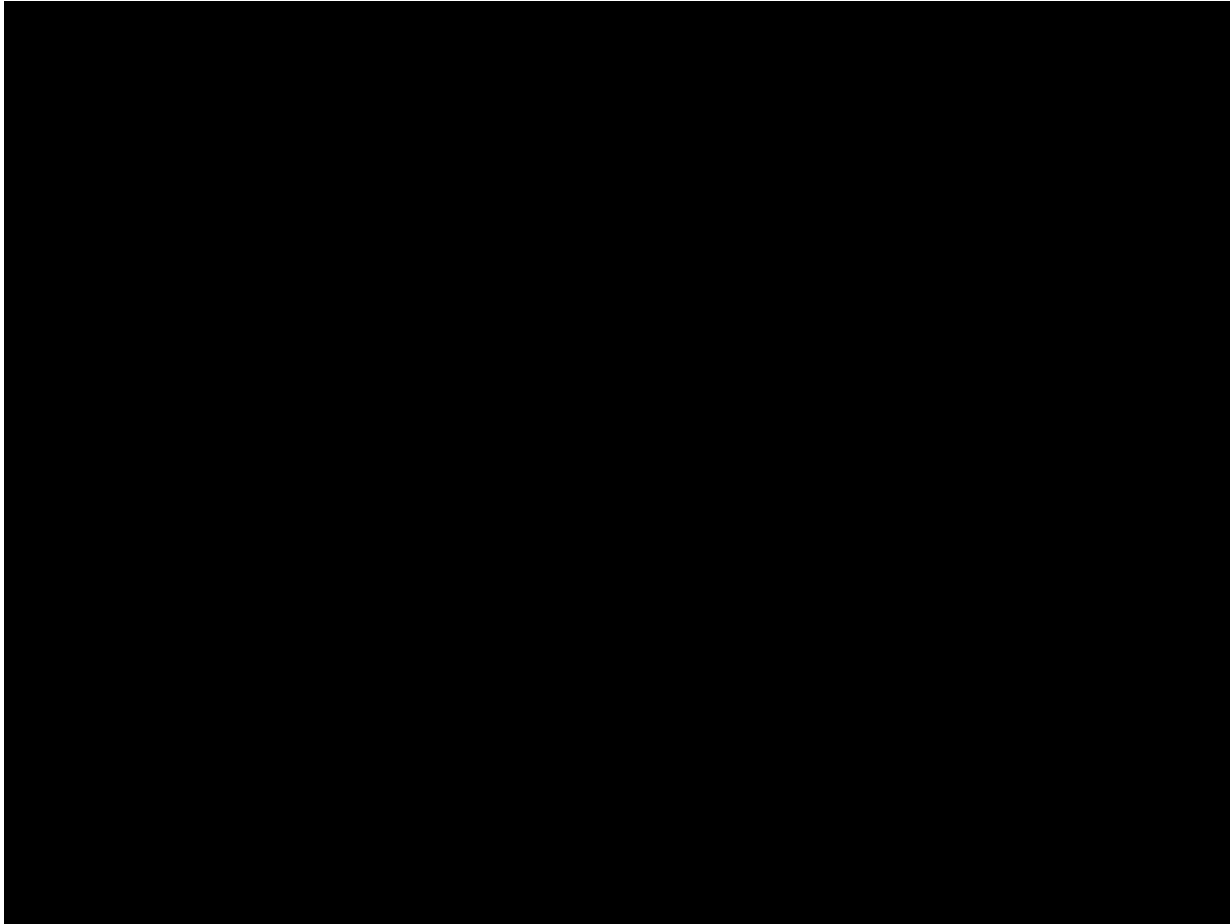
Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the objectives of Financial Aid Day (FAD). FAD reserves the third Wednesday in October to honor the role financial aid professionals across the United States play in helping students realize their dream of attaining a college education.

Today, student aid is under attack, despite the fact that millions of students rely on and benefit from federal student aid each year. In fact, the number

citizens of all ages to attain a higher education puts aid administrators among the forefront of this nation's efforts to compete in the global economy and contribute to the common good. Without such dedicated administrators, an untold number of students from diverse financial backgrounds would not be able to continue their pursuit of higher education due to a lack of necessary information and counseling.

Stuff FAAs Say . . .

(Double click in box to play video)



Understanding Financial Aid Terminology . . .

"I filled out my faza, when will my money get dispursed to me?"

Where exactly do I find the MUFASSA form? Yep, she meant FAFSA not the dad from Lion King!



....a Freudian slip? Student had submitted a "special circumstance" form requesting that we re-evaluate his aid. When he phoned he asked the officer on the line if we "evaluated his circumcission yet..." it was all the officer could do to respond in a somewhat normal voice....

A Mom calls in to inquire about her son's financial aid and why it was not completed yet. She clearly might have had some adult beverages for breakfast. She indicated to me that her son's financial aid had not been completed as he had "Attention Definition". Hmmmmmmm

Lisa Apitz South Central College North Mankato, MN

"But I REALLY don't remember ever taking out a student loan - wouldn't I have had to sign something first?!"

"I never got that e-mail..."

"It really takes that long to get an aid package? What do ya'll do all day?"



"What's the point of my student working so hard for a 4.0 in HS if it means he's not getting paid anything for college?"

"Are you sure there will never be reciprocity with Illinois? If it happens later - would we be grandfathered in?"

Karla Weber University of WI - Madison

The Challenging Questions We Ask On Forms . . .

I have a residency form that says “indicate each state that you have lived in and the time period you lived in those states”

Answer...MN 11/26/96 until “still living”

Just In Case We Don't Know What We Are Doing . . .

“Here’s a copy of my award from the school I used to attend. Now you know what I should be awarded.”

What is really meant by entitlement programs . . .

What do you mean I can't have that money if I drop out.
I'm entitled to that money!

Student Loans Uncovered . . .

Parent: “Can you tell me what part of my son’s financial aid award is loans?”

FA: “He has a Subsidized Stafford of \$4,500, an Unsubsidized Stafford of \$2,000 and a Perkins of \$2,100.”

Parent: “So which of those does he have to pay back?”

My student loan is not financial aid because I have to pay it back.

To work or not to work . . .

You mean I have to get a job? Work study doesn't mean that I get paid to study?

Could you call my son and explain to him how he can find a job on campus? He keeps telling us there are no jobs available.

I want a job where I can do my homework. How do I get one of those?

"So, I am being penalized for working then...? I should just quit my job I guess."

Notifications, Disclosures, and Other Important Information

"FAFSA, what is that?"

"Don't ask me, my parents do everything."

THIRD NOTICE

"No one told me."



"You mean I have to read every line of every letter you send to me?"

South Central College, North Mankato, MN



I Need to Speak to the Director . . .

Having just started at a new institution as their new director, I jumped in to help the growing lines. I stepped out of my office and say "May I help the next person in line?" A lady near the front turned and looked at me and said "We want someone who DOES financial aid...". She laughed and turned back in line. I managed to help everyone in line before she made it in to see a specialist. She was too embarrassed to come see me. I have been "doing" financial aid for 20 years!

Pam Palermo Northwestern Michigan College

Don't Hold Anything Back . . .

“I have a condition that you're aggravating.”

The student had a child, but it was questionable as to whether the student actually provided support for the child because he was living with the baby's mother in her mother's household (grandmother). The grandmother called trying to understand the situation and after a brief explanation, she asked, “ Is FAFSA going to force my daughter to marry this guy? Oh God no! Please say no.”

Occasionally, a Student May Exaggerate Just a *Little* Bit . . .

One time in a SAP appeal at one of my former schools a student wrote that he could not complete his classes because of medical issues. He said he had been mugged and "beaten to death". I figured if God reinstated his life, who was I to deny him aid.

Ted Malone, Purdue University

" I really need help to pay for school - I completed the FAFSA and my EFC is below zero."

Gayla Jenkins University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

COA: Defining “reasonable allowance” for personal expenses . . .

I was a brand new financial aid counselor, listening to a law student share his sob story of why he needed a budget revision. His roommate was home all day, she didn't have a job, ate all his food, etc. I looked him right in the eye and said "Girlfriends are NOT an educational expense."

Jayne Jarrett, Ohio Northern University



By signing the signature page, you also certify that:

You will use federal student aid funds received during the award year covered by this application solely for educational expenses related to attendance during that year at the institution of higher education that determined eligibility for those funds;

I wanted to report a neighbor who used his financial aid money to buy a horse trailer.



Can't I bring the papers in after I get back from the beach? I need my refund for my vacation.

Cynthia Hudok, Fairmont State University

What do you mean my student loan funds are not in yet, but today's Halloween. Now I don't know how I'll get my costume!

Christina Rose



Lest You Give Me Less Aid Than I Deserve, You Should Know That . . .

“I have a personal relationship with the financial aid director.”



When To Suggest A Back-Up Plan . . .



"I'll pay in full next spring after I get my lottery winning payment."

Cornerstone University



Can't you just write off our daughter's tuition this year?

The Painful Truth . . .

"Mom, since you do this for a living will you please just fill out this stuff (Entrance Counseling & MPN) for me?" My answer was of course a resounding "NO"!!! So afterwards my son told me he just answered all the entrance counseling questions with option B. Sorry folks, I tried to raise him right!

Mother of a 2012 - 2013 freshman



On National Financial Aid Day, we celebrate you,
the dedicated professionals who tirelessly devote
their time and talent to assist students and their
families.

So when you get back to your office, go through some of those thank you notes you have buried in your desk drawer and take a few minutes to remember the students whose lives you have touched, those for whom you have been a merchant of hope.

Remember what you love about this profession
and celebrate it .

THIS IS OUR DAY!