

Nebraska State Legislature

SENATOR DAVE MURMAN

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COMMITTEES

Chairperson - Education
Revenue
Committee on Committees

To: Secretary Miguel Cardona
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20202.

CC: Senator Deb Fischer, Senator Pete Ricketts, Congressman Mike Flood, Congressman Don Bacon,
Congressman Adrian Smith

March 31, 2023

Dear Secretary Cardona,

Very recently, *Inside Higher Ed* published an article detailing the negative effect on Nebraskans from the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Federal Student Aid changes to the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) as part of the FAFSA Simplification Act.

The changes would recognize family farms and small businesses as family assets. This unfairly assumes that small businesses and family farms can be used as liquidity to pay for college. Further, the number of family members in college would no longer be considered. This is a major help for families who are helping pay for multiple members attending college.

The Department and Congress should strongly reconsider incorporating family farm and small business assets into the calculation. Both scenarios unfairly assume that these assets are a sign of accumulated wealth. FAFSA should instead value actual net income, a fairer metric that all families calculate annually.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David S. Murman".

Senator Dave Murman

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Joni Albrecht".

Senator Joni Albrecht

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Beau Ballard".

Senator Beau Ballard

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Carol Blood".

Senator Carol Blood

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Eliot Bostar".

Senator Eliot Bostar

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bruce Bostelman".

Senator Bruce Bostelman


Senator Tom Brandt


Senator John Cavanaugh


Senator Danielle Conrad

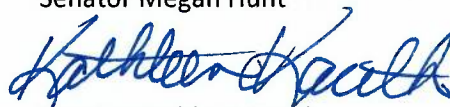

Senator Barry DeKay


Senator George Dungan


Senator Suzanne Geist


Senator Brian Hardin


Senator Megan Hunt


Senator Kathleen Kauth


Senator John Lowe


Senator Mike Moser

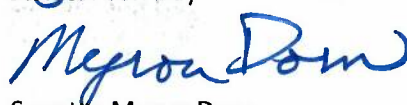

Senator Julie Slama


Senator Lynne Walz


Senator Tom Brewer


Senator Machaela Cavanaugh


Senator Jen Day


Senator Myron Dorn


Senator Steve Erdman

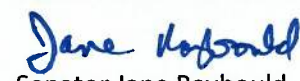

Senator Steve Halloran


Senator Rick Holdcroft


Senator Teresa Hach


Senator Lou Ann Linehan


Senator Mike McDonnell

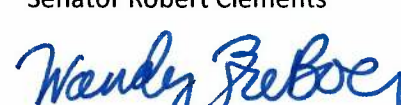

Senator Jane Raybould

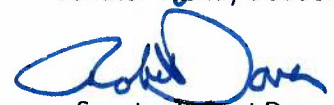

Senator Tony Vargas


Senator Anna Wishart


Senator Tom Bries

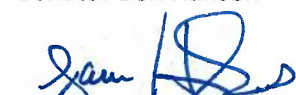

Senator Robert Clements

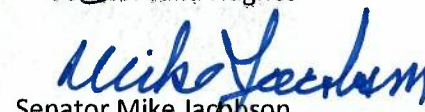

Senator Wendy DeBoer


Senator Robert Dover

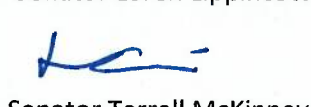

Senator John Fredrickson

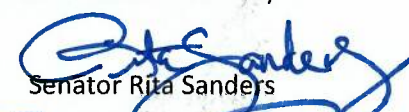

Senator Ben Hansen

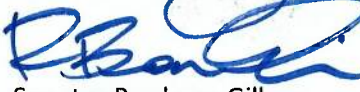

Senator Jana Hughes


Senator Mike Jacobson


Senator Loren Lippincott


Senator Terrell McKinney


Senator Rita Sanders


Senator Brad von Gillern


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