

nassgap

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national association of state student grant and aid programs

January 28, 2000

Mr. Greg Woods
U.S. Department of Education
ROB 3, Room 4004
7th and D Streets, S.W.
Washington, DC 20202

Dear Mr. Woods:

The National Association of State Student Grant and Aid Programs (NASSGAP) is a national organization that represents agencies in the fifty (50) states that operate Leveraging Educational Assistance Partnership (LEAP) Programs and state aid programs. These states, including the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, provide \$3 billion in aid to over 2 million students. Clearly, state agencies are vitally interested in the delivery system and the design of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The FAFSA serves as the base application for state assistance and is a key point of interaction between the U.S. Department of Education (USDE) and all states.

NASSGAP has participated in the FAFSA Redesign Team since 1996, with the chairperson of the ED Technical Forms Committee of NASSGAP representing the states during this process. This relationship has facilitated the work of the Redesign Team since it provides expeditious reactions to issues related to the delivery system and FAFSA. It provides a conduit for state concerns as well as a vehicle to solicit responses from states through the NASSGAP listserv when such is appropriate. Colin Sellar has been the moderator of this team and has made a significant effort to recognize the needs of states throughout the process. Mary Beth Kelly, Vice President, State Grant and Special Programs at the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA), has served as chairperson of the NASSGAP ED Technical Forms Committee during those years and has represented NASSGAP on the FAFSA Redesign Committee with distinction.

NASSGAP strongly urges the continuation of the coordinated effort to review the delivery system and FAFSA matters that include not only the appropriate federal and school personnel, but also the representative designated by the states through the national organization. The continuation of the inclusion of a representative of NASSGAP on the core federal FAFSA Redesign Team is critical to the state/federal partnership and the streamlined delivery of financial aid to needy students. Accordingly, NASSGAP requests that Mary Beth Kelly be reappointed to serve on this committee. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Dennis Obergfell
President
NASSGAP

cc: Ms. Mary Beth Kelly, PHEAA
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