

PATTY MURRAY
WASHINGTON

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4704

COMMITTEES:
APPROPRIATIONS
BUDGET
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VETERANS' AFFAIRS

September 22, 2011

Ms. Vicki Merkel
President
National Association of State Student Grant and Aid Programs
917 Lakeridge Way SW
PO Box 43430
Olympia, Washington 98504

Dear Ms. Merkel:

Thank you for contacting me regarding the Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction. I appreciate your organization taking the time to contact me.

As a co-chair of this Committee, I am committed to working with my colleagues from both parties to get our economy back on track and improve our nation's fiscal future. I strongly believe that we need to address our national debt and deficit in a balanced, bipartisan manner. We need to make the difficult choices that put our country on a more sustainable fiscal track, but we also must protect the middle class, seniors, and the most vulnerable. I will be working tirelessly with my colleagues toward a bipartisan plan that reduces our deficit will continuing to invest in areas that help spur economic growth, create jobs, and promote our country's long-term competitiveness.

I appreciate your input regarding the Joint Select Committee and look forward to working with my colleagues to address our nation's deficit in a balanced, pragmatic, and practical way. Please visit <http://deficitreduction.gov> for further information on the work of the Committee.

Sincerely,



Patty Murray
United States Senator

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