

From: nassgap-bounces@lists.onenet.net on behalf of Butler, Stephanie (ACPE)
[stephanie.butler@alaska.gov]
Sent: Friday, July 15, 2016 2:43 PM
To: NASSGAP@lists.onenet.net
Subject: [Nassgap] Fw: EMBARGOED (6am Friday): File Once FAFSA Act of 2016
Attachments: 2016-07-15 File Once FAFSA Fact Sheet.docx; File Once FAFSA Act of 2016.pdf;
ATT00001.txt; ATT00001.txt

Good afternoon,

I hope everyone is enjoying the summer!

I'm pleased to report to you that at the invitation of Ranking Member Bobby Scott's staff of the House Committee on Education and the Workforce, your NASSGAP Executive Committee has added NASSGAP's name to the list of organizations supporting the File Once FAFSA Act of 2016. NASSGAP's specific support language, provided to the Committee, was:

On behalf of NASSGAP, we support the concepts outlined in Rep. Scott's bill as a strong step towards simplifying the FAFSA process, especially for dependent students in challenging family situations. We encourage the House Education & Workforce Committee to work with the House Ways & Means Committee to explore ways to establish a one-time IRS Data Retrieval Tool authorization that would enable future FAFSAs to be automatically updated with the most recent data, further easing the burden on students and their families.

A copy of the bill language and a related fact sheet is attached for your reference.

You will note that, under Frank's able leadership and negotiation of federal legislative processes, NASSGAP's support was articulated as support for the general concept of FAFSA simplification while underscoring NASSGAP's continued advocacy for the one-time IRS data-retrieval tool. This message to the Committee and the sign-on to support the bill provides significant benefit to NASSGAP as an organization, as well as to our states' students. Frank provided the following bullets which sum up these benefits:

- By signing on to this bill, NASSGAP is assured a seat at the table as this process moves forward, both in working on final bill language and /or in working simplification concepts into HEA Reauthorization in a manner that does not complicate, but potentially simplifies, the state grant and aid programs and processes
- We are joined in our support for making the IRS Data Retrieval a one-time authorization by NASFAA, among others, reinforcing our long-standing and ongoing shared agenda with these prestigious peer organizations and strengthening all our voices
- We are demonstrating to members of Congress that they can count on NASSGAP for support of initiatives that support high-need students, and also for clear communication of any concerns we may have, or conditions of that support

I would note that the Executive Committee did have concerns about the potential cost of the bill, which we expect many NASSGAP members will share. But we recognize that the draft bill is the start of a process, marking sponsor intent rather than expectation that the bill will pass as worded, and the bill certainly will not pass this Congress due to the same cost concerns. Getting the IRS data in subsequent years will minimize the cost of this initiative while greatly simplifying the FAFSA process for low-income students and their parents. It's worth noting that the first time a student and parent complete the FAFSA, they are often participating in an event with our members and/or local college access organizations. But that assistance is typically not as available for returning students and (especially) their parents. This bill addresses that weakness of today's FAFSA process.

NASSGAP's federal relations team will continue to closely monitor bill progress; any change of this nature requires careful analysis of the details of implementation, especially with regard to how ISIR data will be transmitted to states, and how states participating in API will be affected.

Please do not hesitate to contact Frank or me if you have any questions.

Thanks,
Stephanie

From: nassgapexec-bounces@lists.onenet.net [mailto:nassgapexec-bounces@lists.onenet.net] **On Behalf Of** Ballmann, Frank (HESC)
Sent: Friday, July 15, 2016 4:21 AM
To: Executive Members of NASSGAP <nassgapexec@lists.onenet.net>
Subject: [Nassgapexec] Fw: EMBARGOED (6am Friday): File Once FAFSA Act of 2016

FYI

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Verizon Wireless 4G LTE network.

From: Tizzani, Philip <Philip.Tizzani@mail.house.gov>
Sent: Thursday, July 14, 2016 5:17 PM
To: David Baime; JEE HANG LEE; JENNIFER STIDDARD; Lindwarm, Craig; Davis, Sadie; Lauren Walizer; Andrea Amaechi; Kisha Bird; Kelly McManus; Maggie Thompson; Charlotte Hancock; Maldonado, Luis; Diaz, Alicia; John Aguilar; Frank Ballmann; Justin Draeger; Megan McClean Coval; Carrie Warick; Kim Cook; Allie Ciaramella; Jessica Thompson; Edith L. Bartley; Ethan Senack; 'chris.lindstrom@pirg.org'; Christopher Nellum; Reid Setzer; Sara Goldrick-Rab
Cc: Haines, Christian; Valle, Katherine
Subject: EMBARGOED (6am Friday): File Once FAFSA Act of 2016

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

Thank you all for your assistance and support for this bill,

This evening, an embargoed copy of the File Once FAFSA Act of 2016 will be sent to press along with a fact sheet and bill text (attached). I will send a final press release later this evening with your organizations represented. The information is embargoed until 6 am tomorrow morning. Tomorrow our press team will be using the hashtag **#fileonce** on Twitter—we greatly appreciate any amplification that can happen tomorrow and in the following days from your organizations. Please reach out with any questions you have.

Best,
Philip

Philip Tizzani
Committee on Education and the Workforce – Democratic Staff
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Fact Sheet

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION & THE WORKFORCE DEMOCRATS

DEMOCRATS-EDWORKFORCE.HOUSE.GOV

The Hon. Bobby Scott • Ranking Member

H.R. 5784 – The File Once FAFSA Act of 2016

The **File Once FAFSA Act of 2016** simplifies the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) for low-income students by requiring dependent Pell Grant recipients to file a FAFSA just once before going to college. Currently, low-income students and parents are required to annually refile the FAFSA with updated financial information.

Background

There are approximately 2 million enrolled college students who would have been eligible to receive a Federal Pell Grant but never completed a FAFSA. Of Pell Grant recipients who continue their education for the second year, 1 in 10 do not refile a FAFSA. Some Pell-eligible students may not file again due to lack of awareness, although research suggests that the complexity of the application process prevents many students from obtaining aid.

One particularly onerous part of the process is the annual refiling of the FAFSA for dependent students, or unmarried students without children under the age of 24, who are required to provide both their own financial information and their parents' information on the application for aid. Research demonstrates that Pell-eligible students are more than twice as likely as non-Pell-eligible students to experience difficulty obtaining their parents' financial information. Additionally, due to the filing of both student and parent financial information, dependent students take twice as long to refile the FAFSA than independent students who must provide only their own financial data. Financial information is useful for calculating aid eligibility the first time a FAFSA is filed, but because data demonstrates consistency in Pell award amounts for dependent students upon refiling, there is no need to collect this information from students and their parents year after year.

Reducing Barriers to Financial Aid for Low-Income Students

To simplify the financial aid process and help more low-income students obtain Pell Grant aid to access and complete college, the **File Once FAFSA Act of 2016** replaces the annual refiling requirement with a one-time FAFSA filing requirement for Pell-eligible dependent students. This means that a low-income high school student will only be required to provide their parents' financial information once before going to college. Each subsequent year, the student will receive his or her Pell award without having to refile and repeat the burdensome application process. If enacted, this legislation would help nearly 3.5 million low-income students obtain Pell Grant aid more easily. The **File Once FAFSA Act of 2016** will simplify the application process for Pell Grant recipients by:

- **Allowing one-time FAFSA for dependent students** – Any dependent student who completes the FAFSA for the first time, and learns he or she is eligible for a Pell Grant, will not be required to refile the FAFSA

in any succeeding year for the program's course of study. The student will maintain their expected family contribution (EFC) calculated for the first year of filing, for the purposes of calculating federal student aid.

- ***Granting dependent student certification*** – For each academic year, a student will certify via a simple, consumer-tested form that he or she is still a dependent student and will answer whether his or her circumstances have significantly changed. Students who indicate they are now independent are highly likely to receive a larger award and will be prompted to refile a FAFSA indicating their updated status.
- ***Permitting professional judgment*** – A student with significant changes in financial circumstances in subsequent years will still be eligible to receive a professional judgment determination from their financial aid administrator. That student's adjusted EFC will be used for determining aid in succeeding years without requiring the student to refile.

.....
(Original Signature of Member)

114TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. _____

To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to simplify the FAFSA requirements for dependent students, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to simplify the FAFSA requirements for dependent students, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “File Once FAFSA Act
5 of 2016”.

6 **SEC. 2. FAFSA SIMPLIFICATION.**

7 (a) ONE-TIME FAFSA FILING FOR DEPENDENT
8 STUDENTS.—Section 483(a) of the Higher Education Act

1 of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1090(a)) is amended by adding at the
2 end the following:

3 “(13) ONE-TIME FAFSA FILING FOR DEPEND-
4 ENT STUDENTS.—

5 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any
6 other provision of this section and subject to
7 subparagraphs (B) and (C), an applicant who
8 submits a FAFSA for the first time during the
9 period required for the completion of the first
10 undergraduate baccalaureate course of study
11 being pursued by such applicant and is deter-
12 mined to be a dependent student who is eligible
13 to receive a Federal Pell Grant for the aca-
14 demic year for which the applicant submitted
15 such FAFSA—

16 “(i) for any succeeding academic year
17 for which the applicant does not submit a
18 FAFSA and for which the applicant sub-
19 mits a certification form described in sub-
20 paragraph (D) based on which the Sec-
21 retary confirms that the applicant is a de-
22 pendent student for such year—

23 “(I) shall not be required to sub-
24 mit a FAFSA to receive financial as-
25 sistance under this title; and

1 “(II) shall have an expected fam-
2 ily contribution for such year that is
3 equal to the expected family contribu-
4 tion of the applicant determined for
5 the academic year for which the appli-
6 cant submitted a FAFSA during such
7 period, except that an adjustment to
8 such expected family contribution may
9 be made under section 479A;

10 “(ii) if the applicant submits a
11 FAFSA for any succeeding academic
12 year—

13 “(I) shall have an expected fam-
14 ily contribution for such year that is
15 determined based on such FAFSA;
16 and

17 “(II) shall be required to submit
18 a FAFSA for any other academic year
19 for which the applicant seeks financial
20 assistance under this title; and

21 “(iii) if the applicant is determined to
22 be an independent student for any suc-
23 ceeding academic year or does not submit
24 a certification form described in subpara-
25 graph (D), shall submit a FAFSA for such

1 succeeding academic year and any other
2 academic year for which the applicant
3 seeks financial assistance under this title.

4 “(B) ADJUSTMENT OF EXPECTED FAMILY
5 CONTRIBUTION.—With respect to an applicant
6 described in subparagraph (A)(i) who receives
7 an adjustment under section 479A to the ex-
8 pected family contribution of the applicant for
9 an academic year, for any succeeding academic
10 year after the academic year for which the ad-
11 justment was made, subclause (II) of such sub-
12 paragraph shall be applied to such applicant by
13 substituting ‘expected family contribution of the
14 applicant as most recently adjusted under sec-
15 tion 479A for such applicant’ for the ‘expected
16 family contribution of the applicant determined
17 for the academic year for which the applicant
18 submitted a FAFSA during such period’.

19 “(C) RULE FOR CERTAIN STUDENTS.—
20 With respect to an applicant who submits a
21 FAFSA for academic year 2016-2017 and en-
22 rolls in an institution of higher education for
23 such year, subparagraph (A) shall be applied—

1 “(i) in the matter preceding clause (i),
2 by substituting ‘academic year 2016–2017’
3 for ‘the first time’; and

4 “(ii) in clause (i)(II), by substituting
5 ‘academic year 2016–2017’ for ‘the aca-
6 demic year for which the applicant sub-
7 mitted a FAFSA during such period’.

8 “(D) DEPENDENT STUDENT CERTIFI-
9 CATION FORM.—The Secretary, in cooperation
10 with representatives of agencies and organiza-
11 tions involved in student financial assistance,
12 shall use behavioral science insights to produce,
13 distribute, and process free of charge a short
14 and simple consumer-tested dependent student
15 certification form that uses skip logic to bypass
16 fields that are inapplicable to an applicant.
17 Such form shall not require an applicant to pro-
18 vide data that the Secretary may otherwise ob-
19 tain with respect to the applicant (such as age
20 or active duty military status), and may only
21 contain the data elements required for purposes
22 of subparagraph (A)(i)—

23 “(i) to confirm that the applicant is a
24 dependent student;

1 “(ii) to allow the applicant to update
2 the contact information of such applicant
3 or the Federal School Code of the institu-
4 tion of higher education in which the appli-
5 cant is, or will be enrolled, for the aca-
6 demic year for which the applicant submits
7 such form; and

8 “(iii) to ask whether the applicant’s
9 need and eligibility for financial assistance
10 under this title has not changed substan-
11 tially since the most recent of the fol-
12 lowing:

13 “(I) The applicant submitted a
14 FAFSA.

15 “(II) The applicant received an
16 adjustment under section 479A to the
17 expected family contribution of the
18 applicant.

19 “(E) SUCCEEDING ACADEMIC YEAR DE-
20 FINED.—In this paragraph, the term ‘suc-
21 ceeding academic year’—

22 “(i) when used with respect to an ap-
23 plicant who submits a FAFSA for the first
24 time for an academic year during the pe-
25 riod required for the completion of the first

1 undergraduate baccalaureate course of
2 study being pursued by such applicant,
3 means any academic year during such pe-
4 riod that follows the academic year for
5 which the applicant submits such FAFSA;
6 and

7 “(ii) when used with respect to an ap-
8 plicant described in subparagraph (C),
9 means any academic year after academic
10 year 2016–2017 during the period required
11 for the completion of the first under-
12 graduate baccalaureate course of study
13 being pursued by such applicant.”.

14 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by
15 this section shall be effective with respect to determining
16 the expected family contribution of applicants for award
17 year 2017–2018 and each succeeding award year.