

Note from Senator Harkin's office requesting Senators sign on to letter in opposition to the Interest Rate Reduction Act

Dear Colleague,

Please join Senators Harkin, Mikulski, Franken, Tom Udall, and Mark Udall in sending the attached letter to Majority Leader Reid and Minority Leader McConnell in opposition to the "Interest Rate Reduction Act," which was offered by Senate Republicans last week. This proposal, which is widely regarded as politically motivated and shortsighted, would eliminate the Prevention and Public Health Fund to pay for the cost of maintaining the student loan 3.4 percent interest rate.

The elimination of the Fund is opposed by nearly 800 organizations including prominent student groups such as U.S. PIRG, Young Invincibles, the U.S. Student Association, and Campus Progress and public health groups including Trust for America's Health, the American Cancer Society, the American Diabetes Association and the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids . Further, on 4/27 President Obama issued a SAP threatening a veto if the proposal were to reach his desk. (See attached statements.)

Please don't hesitate to let me know if you have any questions. As always, we're more than happy to send along any information that would be helpful, including a summary of Prevention and Public Health Funds in your state. If you would like to add your boss' name to this letter, please let me know by **opening of business, May 7**.