



Jim Nussle
President & CEO

Phone: 202-508-6745
jnussle@cuna.coop

99 M Street SE
Suite 300
Washington, DC 20003-3799

June 11, 2019

The Honorable Al Green
Chairman
Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations
Committee on Financial Services
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Andy Barr
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations
Committee on Financial Services
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Green and Ranking Member Barr:

On behalf of America's credit unions, thank you for holding the hearing entitled, "An Examination of State Efforts to Oversee the \$1.5 Trillion Student Loan Servicing Market." The Credit Union National Association (CUNA) represents America's credit unions and the 115 million members that they serve.

Total student loan debt in the U.S. has reached \$1.5 trillion and is now the second largest factor of household debt, with the average graduate saddled with nearly \$40,000. Yet 43 percent of recent graduates are underemployed, unable to find full-time work in their fields of study, and often earning significantly less than expected.

While most student loans originate with the government, more and more credit unions are finding ways to support student borrowers through private loans. However, one barrier for many federal credit unions from entering the student lending sector is the 15-year loan maturity limit. Except for mortgage lending, Federally-chartered credit unions are prohibited by statute from making loans with maturity limits in excess of 15 years. Only Oklahoma has a similar restriction on state-chartered credit unions and no such constraint exists for banks. The ability to set a longer loan maturity for Federal credit union loans would provide more opportunities for education that is more affordable.

Thus, we strongly support H.R. 1661, to provide the National Credit Union Administration Board flexibility to increase Federal credit union loan maturities, and for other purposes. This legislation would provide the National Credit Union Administration with the additional flexibility to increase loan maturity limits for federal credit unions.

On behalf of America's credit unions and their 115 million members, thank you for the opportunity to share our views.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim Nussle". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Jim Nussle
President & CEO