



Brandeis University

Frederick M. Lawrence
President
Professor of Politics

May 17, 2013

Senator Elizabeth Warren
Russell Senate Office Building
2 Russell Courtyard
Washington, DC 20510

Via email to: [Julie Morgan@warren.senate.gov](mailto:Julie_Morgan@warren.senate.gov)

Dear Senator Warren:

Thank you for your leadership on behalf of the students of Massachusetts' colleges and universities. As President of Brandeis University, I am proud to offer my support for your *Bank On Students Loan Fairness Act*. This legislation comes at a critical time for college students, as the interest rate on federal subsidized Stafford loans is set to increase from 3.4 percent to 6.8 percent on July 1, 2013.

Although Brandeis is proud of our relatively low rate of student indebtedness, my fellow college presidents and I share your concern about the high level of debt that students are taking on in pursuit of higher education and the risk such debt may pose to their career choices, to their financial future and to our overall economy.

As college presidents, we have a responsibility to do all that we can to maintain affordability and maintain Brandeis' high graduation rates. In fact, last year, Brandeis University provided \$40.1 million in need-based institutional aid to our students. However, despite our best efforts and intentions, there will always be students who need additional assistance beyond federal, state, and institutional grant aid.

It is in these situations that the federal government provides a wonderful service to students through subsidized Stafford loans. These loans are crucial for some students in providing the final financial assistance they may need to attend college and obtain their degree. The inclusion of "fairness" in the title of your legislation is important: students should have access to loans at fair or favorable rates – it is an important investment in the future of our nation.

During these economic times, it is critical that interest payments remain as low as possible so that students can repay their loans in a timely manner. If student loan interest rates were to double in July, it would have negative consequences on thousands of students, putting them at greater risk of falling behind or defaulting on their payments. Your legislation offers a creative solution to avoid that problem and we stand ready to work with you to secure its passage.

The Irving Enclave

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As an institution founded on the principles of social justice and access to education for all students, Brandeis University stands behind your effort to preserve these principles through access to affordable student loans. Please let me know if I can be of any assistance to you as you continue to work to protect our students and graduates.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'F. M. Lawrence', is written above the printed name.

Frederick M. Lawrence