

Congress of the United States

Washington, D.C. 20515

July 29, 2021

The Honorable Miguel Cardona
Secretary
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Ave SW
Washington, D.C. 20202

Dear Secretary Cardona:

In early June we wrote to you about helping federal student loan borrowers as their loans reenter repayment. While we have not received a response to that letter, your staff has indicated to our offices that the Department is preparing to transition the federal student loan portfolio back into repayment on October 1, 2021. Your staff noted that they were working to meet all the statutory requirements to provide advance notice to borrowers of the termination of pandemic-related relief. We were very pleased to hear this news.

However, we are worried borrowers are receiving mixed messages. Our Democrat colleagues continue to call for another extension of the repayment freeze even though they know your own staff says that they are working to meet the October 1 deadline to return to repayment.

Mr. Secretary, we assume you are in communication with President Biden and have told him what you told us: that your agency can restart monthly student loan payments this fall. Please notify us if this is not the case.

Student loan borrowers deserve clarity. Are you going to restart payments on October 1 as your staff has indicated, or are you going to cave to progressive activists and ask the President to support another extension?

We ask for a written response to this question before the end of the week.

Please contact Mandy Schaumburg (mandy.schaumburg@mail.house.gov) of the Committee on Education and Labor staff and Kristin Spiridon (Kristin_spiridon@help.senate.gov) with the

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions should you have any questions about the request. We look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Virginia Foxx".

Virginia Foxx
Ranking Member
U.S. House Committee on Education
and Labor

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Richard Burr".

Richard Burr
Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Committee on Health,
Education, Labor, and Pensions