



Sample Call Script Regarding PROSPER ACT

Hello, my name is **(your name)** I am a **(graduate/prof./Ph.D./etc.)** student at **University of Missouri** and I am calling today to speak to **(member of Congress's name)** about the effects of the proposed higher education reauthorization act - the PROSPER ACT and its impact on higher education. There are many provisions in the proposed law which will adversely impact graduate and professional students, and the ones of most concern to us are:

- The elimination of Grad Plus loans
- The elimination of Public Service Loan Forgiveness
- The elimination of work study programs for graduate students
- The preservation of loan interest rates that discriminate against graduate-professional students
- And, provisions that adversely affect the Clery Act.

(Now the person on the phone will likely say that they can pass on your message. They may ask for your name and zip code)

(Choose 1 or 2 reasons from the list below to begin the conversation. Or share a personal story of how you will be affected.)

- Graduate and professional students currently have access to three ways of financing their education: unsubsidized Stafford Loans, Grad Plus loans, and federal work study. 1.1 million graduate students currently utilize the Grad Plus loan program. Grad Plus allows for individualized borrowing with caps designed by the institution, providing better control of borrowing. This allows for graduate students to borrow what is necessary without creating too large of a debt to pay.
- Federal work study allows for graduate students that are in financial need to work at their universities and receive funds to live off of based on their research, or internships that would be necessary for their education.
- The Public Service Loan Forgiveness Act incentivizes professionals to pursue careers in the public service to help our underserved and rural communities, where their skills are needed. Professions that qualify for the PSLF include teachers and principals, doctors, social workers and mental health professionals.

Provisions in the PROSPER Act also directly affect students by limiting the strength of the Clery Act. As written the PROSPER Act does not require climate survey results be distributed to students, allows for sexual assault investigations to be delayed indefinitely, and does not require survivor counselors to report Clery data.

Eliminating these programs will hurt higher education by making graduate and professional education more expensive and making graduate degrees unattainable for many. Elimination will also hurt people in our underserved and rural communities by limiting the number of professionals able to work in those communities.

I strongly urge **(member of Congress's name)** to vote against the Prosper Act.

Thank you for your time