

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

November 8th, 2017

The Honorable Kevin Brady  
Chairman  
House Ways & Means Committee  
1102 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Brady,

I commend your efforts to create a tax system that will benefit middle-income families throughout my district by allowing them to keep more of what they earn. Your focus on lowering rates, doubling the standard deduction, and expanding the child tax credit is a great start to changing their lives for the better.

As Members of Congress, we can make an even bigger impact by taking this opportunity through tax reform to confront the impending student debt crisis and to address access to higher education. With eight colleges and universities located within my district, I am committed to addressing these issues and hope you will consider my suggestions.

Section 127 of the Internal Revenue Code (IRC) incentivizes an employee to accept tax-free qualified educational assistance from an employer as a means to further the employee's education and obtain skills to thrive in the workforce. Since 2014, I have championed the importance of this benefit and have attempted to expand it through my bill, H.R. 795, the *Employer Participation in Student Loan Assistance Act*. Seven in ten college seniors graduate with student loan debt – which now represents the second highest form of consumer debt. This debt harms our economy because it prevents many young adults from buying a house, purchasing a car, or saving for retirement. For this reason, I ask that you consider retaining this exclusion in tax reform and expand it to include H.R. 795.

Additionally, repealing Section 117(d) of the IRC will eliminate a taxpayer's ability to exclude qualified tuition reductions from income and will raise the barrier of entry to college for many individuals. Colleges and universities throughout my district provide employees – as well as their spouses and dependents – with tuition reductions. By repealing this provision, middle-income individuals who rely on these reductions to obtain a college degree will be forced to pay taxes on amounts they never actually physically possess. These individuals include the children of janitors who ensure facilities are in working order, or the spouses of university police officers who provide safety to our students. Repeal of this exclusion will place an unnecessary burden on these taxpayers whose only ability to attend college is often through receipt of qualified tuition reductions. As such, I ask that you retain this exclusion in tax reform.

The task before Congress in reforming our tax code will not be easy and I commend you in your efforts. I thank you for your consideration of my suggestions, and look forward to working with you and our colleagues in creating a tax system that provides our constituents with the greatest opportunity to succeed.

Sincerely,



Rodney Davis  
Member of Congress