Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 7, 2012

The Honorable Eric Cantor
Majority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-6502

Dear Majority Leader Cantor:

We took note that your recent memorandum outlining the House's "summer legislative agenda" did not include any reference to the doubling of need-based Stafford Loan interest rates that will take effect on July 1. This is deeply disappointing, as we believe millions of middle-class students and their families should have the certainty of knowing that the House will act this month to stop the doubling of this interest rate.

It was unfortunate that, rather than proceed in a bipartisan manner to prevent this interest rate from doubling, the House approved an unnecessarily political and deeply-flawed bill that will not be considered by the Senate and that has garnered a veto threat by the White House. In order to stop the interest rates for over 7 million students – roughly one out of every three college students in the country – from going up, it is clear the House will need to act again.

As such, we were concerned that this critical issue impacting millions of middle-class students and families was not even mentioned in your recent memorandum detailing the House's "summer legislative agenda."

Moreover, while you joined Speaker Boehner last week in publicly sending a letter to the President purporting to show an interest in further negotiations on the student loan issue, that same day it was reported that Speaker Boehner privately called the issue a "phony" fight and said it was unlikely that Congress would prevent an interest rate hike before July 1.

We trust you can confirm that the omission of student loan interest rate relief from your "summer legislative agenda" was an oversight on your part and that you share our commitment to bringing responsible legislation to the House floor in the coming weeks that will prevent interest rates from doubling.

Thank you for your attention and your anticipated response.

Sincerely,

John F. Tierney
Member of Congress

Joe Courtney
Member of Congress

George Miller
Member of Congress

Ruben Hinojosa
Member of Congress

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

Gary Ackerman
Member of Congress

Tammy Baldwin
Member of Congress

Karen Bass
Member of Congress

Timothy Bishop
Member of Congress

Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress

Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress

Madeleine Bordallo
Member of Congress

Robert Brady
Member of Congress

Bruce Braley
Member of Congress

G.K. Butterfield
Member of Congress

Lois Capps
Member of Congress

Russ Carnahan
Member of Congress

Andre Carson
Member of Congress

David Cicilline
Member of Congress

Hansen Clarke
Member of Congress

Steve Cohen
Member of Congress

Gerald Connolly
Member of Congress

John Conyers
Member of Congress

Mark Critz
Member of Congress

Joseph Crowley
Member of Congress

Henry Cuellar
Member of Congress

Danny Davis
Member of Congress

Susan Davis
Member of Congress

Peter DeFazio
Member of Congress

Rosa DeLauro
Member of Congress

John Dingell
Member of Congress

Keith Ellison
Member of Congress

Anna Eshoo
Member of Congress

Sam Farr
Member of Congress

Marcia Fudge
Member of Congress

Charles Gonzalez
Member of Congress

Gene Green
Member of Congress

Raúl Grijalva
Member of Congress

Janice Hahn
Member of Congress

Brian Higgins
Member of Congress

Maurice Hinchey
Member of Congress

Mazie Hirono
Member of Congress

Rush Holt
Member of Congress

Jesse Jackson, Jr.
Member of Congress

Sheila Jackson Lee
Member of Congress

Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress

William Keating
Member of Congress

Dale Kildee
Member of Congress

Dennis Kucinich
Member of Congress

James Langevin
Member of Congress

Rick Larsen
Member of Congress

Barbara Lee
Member of Congress

Sander Levin
Member of Congress

John Lewis
Member of Congress

David Loebsack
Member of Congress

Carolyn Maloney
Member of Congress

Edward Markey
Member of Congress

Doris Matsui
Member of Congress

Carolyn McCarthy
Member of Congress

Betty McCollum
Member of Congress

Jim McDermott
Member of Congress

James McGovern
Member of Congress

Gregory Meeks
Member of Congress

Michael Michaud
Member of Congress

Gwen Moore
Member of Congress

James Moran
Member of Congress

Chris Murphy
Member of Congress

Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress

Grace Napolitano
Member of Congress

Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress

John Olver
Member of Congress

Frank Pallone
Member of Congress

Gary Peters
Member of Congress

Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress

Jared Polis
Member of Congress

Nick Rahall
Member of Congress

Charles Rangel
Member of Congress

Silvestre Reyes
Member of Congress

Laura Richardson
Member of Congress

Steven Rothman
Member of Congress

Lucille Roybal-Allard
Member of Congress

Bobby Rush
Member of Congress

Gregorio Sablan
Member of Congress

John Sarbanes
Member of Congress

Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress

Adam Schiff
Member of Congress

Kurt Schrader
Member of Congress

Allyson Schwartz
Member of Congress

Robert C. "Bobby" Scott
Member of Congress

Brad Sherman
Member of Congress

Albio Sires
Member of Congress

Louise Slaughter
Member of Congress

Jackie Speier
Member of Congress

Betty Sutton
Member of Congress

Edolphus Towns
Member of Congress

Niki Tsongas
Member of Congress

Chris Van Hollen
Member of Congress

Maxine Waters
Member of Congress

Peter Welch
Member of Congress

Lynn Woolsey
Member of Congress

John Yarmuth
Member of Congress

Yvette Clarke
Member of Congress

John Larson
Member of Congress

Michael Capuano
Member of Congress