



NATIONAL COALITION FOR HISTORY

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The Honorable Richard Durbin
United States Senate
717 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Durbin:

The National Coalition for History (NCH) would like to thank you for introducing S. 2712, the “Adjunct Faculty Loan Fairness Act of 2014.” NCH is a consortium of over 55 diverse organizations representing historians, archivists, researchers, educators, students, genealogists, preservationists, political scientists, museum professionals and other stakeholders. Many of our member organizations represent those who teach at institutions of higher education as adjunct faculty.

More than half of all faculty at public and non-profit colleges and universities work on a part-time basis and most have advanced degrees. Many of them have substantial student debt accumulated during the many years of preparation for such positions. Unfortunately, they are currently ineligible for participation in the Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) Program.

At a time when tenure-track positions are declining, reliance upon adjunct faculty is increasing. Adjunct faculty are underpaid, lack job security and rarely receive basic employee benefits such as health care coverage and vacation and sick leave. They perform many of the same tasks as those of tenured professors without being adequately compensated for their time and talents.

We thank you for recognizing the important role adjunct faculty play in the field of higher education and that they are in every sense of the word “public servants.” We agree that they should be eligible for student loan forgiveness in the same manner as those currently covered by the PSLF Program.

The National Coalition for History strongly supports S. 2712 and we urge your colleagues in the Senate to enact the bill.

Sincerely,

Lee White
Executive Director