

November 7, 2017

The Honorable Richard E. Neal  
United States House of Representatives  
341 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20115

Dear Representative Neal,

While I understand the bipartisan desire to simplify and reform the federal tax code, some of the current proposals for doing so are misguided.

I am referring to those that would increase taxes on investments in education made by students, employers, and colleges.

The student loan interest deduction, targeted for repeal, has long been a bedrock of the nation's support for Americans seeking to develop their full potential.

Employer-provided educational assistance, now targeted for taxation, is another vital investment in our fellow countrymen and women.

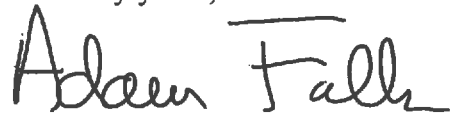
While this has received less attention than other proposals, a tax on graduate student tuition waivers would impose an extraordinary new financial burden on doctoral students, impacting severely the ability of universities to train the next generation of researchers and teachers.

The proposed tax on college endowments would also harm students. Given these colleges' nonprofit status, government taxation can result only in a combination of higher prices and reduced educational programming. There is nowhere else from which that money can come.

Investments in education benefits all citizens and the nation as a whole, so the public is best served by encouraging, not discouraging, them.

I encourage you to do all that you can, in the Ways and Means Committee and on the House Floor, to reverse these proposals, which are poised to harm students and therefore the country.

Sincerely yours,



Adam F. Falk

AFF/alw