



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF LEGISLATION AND CONGRESSIONAL AFFAIRS

February 18, 2025

The Honorable Elizabeth Warren
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Warren:

Thank you for your correspondence to the U.S. Department of Education (Department) regarding federal student loan data. I am sending an identical response to the co-signers of your letter.

Protecting sensitive student loan data and borrower information is of the utmost importance to the Department. The Department is committed to adhering to all applicable laws and regulations concerning the management of borrower data. The Department has robust protections in place to ensure data are secure, and we have not engaged in any activities that would expose data through unauthorized or unlawful means. All borrower data remain inside the Department's network and are not being fed through any Artificial Intelligence system. Further, the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) team was onboarded through Department processes, including background investigation and system access authorizations.

The DOGE is currently supporting a review of Department and Federal Student Aid (FSA) contracts to identify possible efficiencies. Work under FSA contracts related to mission-critical operations—including the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®)—are continuing during this review process. To support this work, one employee had read-only access to two of FSA's internal systems: the Financial Management System (FMS), which includes financial data for FSA's Title IV loan and grant programs, and Partner Connect, the primary portal that supports institutions of higher education that participate in the Title IV programs. FSA maintains rigorous access controls and procedures to secure our systems and data. FSA managed the employee's access according to these controls and procedures. The employee's access to the FMS and Partner Connect systems has since been revoked.

If you have any further questions, your staff may contact Molly Petersen, Principal Advisor, Legislative Affairs, in our Office of Legislation and Congressional Affairs at (202) 763-8035.

Sincerely,

Steve Warzoha
Delegated the Duties of the Assistant Secretary
for Legislation and Congressional Affairs

400 MARYLAND AVE., SW, WASHINGTON, DC 20202
<http://www.ed.gov/>