



# News Release

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## **Students Push for Higher Education Act Renewal**

*House Education Committee Renews Major Legislation Impacting College Students*

Today, the House Committee on Education unanimously approved reauthorization of the Higher Education Act. HEA, currently known as the College Opportunity & Affordability Act, boosts student aid and also includes hate crime reporting measures and other key provisions.

A full House vote is expected in a matter of days.

Student leaders of the United States Student Association (USSA) have pushed to reauthorize the Higher Education Act. HEA, slated for renewal every five years, is a decade overdue.

HEA safeguards students from skyrocketing tuition costs by easing access to federal grant aid. HEA also seeks to increase visibility between major student loan lenders and college financial aid officers – the focus of recent Congressional probes.

Student loan scandal revelations and soaring tuition costs have stirred student action.

“USSA represents millions of students who have bombarded Representatives with calls in an effort to reauthorize this landmark legislation,” said USSA President Gabriel Pendas.

“Finally elected officials realize that the student vote matters and our continued efforts to make higher education a priority on the Hill are no longer brushed aside. Today, students across the country are victorious. Tomorrow, our country will be stronger because our leaders have expanded higher education access to millions of students. HEA gives students and families the resources needed to fully participate in the global economy,” said USSA Legislative Director Rebecca Thompson.

This is the first time, since 1998, that the Higher Education Act has been reauthorized.

Founded in 1947, USSA is the recognized voice for students on Capitol Hill, in the White House and the Department of Education.

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*To arrange an interview with USSA President Gabriel Pendas, please contact Malaika Robinson at 202-833-9771 or Malaika@mckpr.com.*

