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June 28, 2018

Secretary Betsy DeVos  
U.S. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20202

Dear Secretary DeVos,

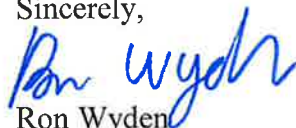
I am writing on behalf of my constituent, Aram Ansell, who has experienced reasonable frustration and confusion at the handling of his Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education (TEACH) Grant. Mr. Adams seems to have missed one signature on his grant application, and consequently, his grant was altered into a loan by the Department of Education.

Members of Congress have been hearing similar cases from teachers around the country whose TEACH grants have been converted to loans, sometimes seemingly in error and often without notice. As you know, the TEACH grant program helps attract teachers to high need and high-poverty schools, and I am exceedingly concerned that these grant-to-loan conversions are hurting Oregon's teachers, schools, and students. The importance and need for an efficient grant review process cannot be overstated for teachers in Oregon and for the students who benefit from those teachers' instruction. At the very least, it is the responsibility of the Department of Education to thoroughly assess and award TEACH grants correctly.

While I am pleased to hear that the Department of Education has begun to review the TEACH Grant program, I request the Department to fairly reassess Mr. Aram Ansell's TEACH Grant application and to determine if his application should be reinstated as a grant, especially if it was altered due to a simple missed signature. Instead of overwhelming teachers with complex paperwork and punishing them harshly for minor errors, the Department should facilitate a simple solution to ensure the award to its recipients. Anything short of providing clear guidance and flexibility for grant recipients is a dereliction of your federal responsibility.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Jocelyn Tyree in my office at 503-326-7525. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Ron Wyden  
United States Senator

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