

12 August 2019

The Honorable Jim Langevin  
United States House of Representatives  
2077 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Langevin,

On behalf of TESOL International Association, the trusted global authority for knowledge and expertise in teaching English, I am writing to offer our strong backing for the Supporting Providers of English Language Learning (SPELL) Act.

Across the United States, thousands of English language teachers face the difficult task of paying off student loans. As the student debt crisis continues to grow, and average teacher salaries remain low – especially for new teachers out of college – student loan relief is sorely needed. This important piece of legislation offers such relief by amending the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide increased amounts of student loan forgiveness to English language teachers. Furthermore, this bill wisely denotes English language teachers as highly valued educators by putting them on the same level as math, science, and special education teachers who are currently eligible for increased student debt forgiveness amounts.

TESOL has always been a strong proponent of and advocate for policies that improve the lives and financial stability of English language teachers. Thank you for introducing such valuable legislation that will undoubtedly assist and improve the overall wellbeing of English language teachers across the United States. TESOL looks forward to working closely with you and all members of Congress who support English language teachers to advance this bill.

Sincerely,



Christopher Powers  
Executive Director