

## Response to Letter from Senator Baucus and Senator Tester

Jim Stipcich, President/CEO Student Assistance Foundation:

While neither MHESAC nor SAF have officially received the letter of your media inquiry, SAF is encouraged that the senators are responding to its recent board resolution expressing concern over access to federal student loans in America. It is clear that Montana's senators recognize the importance of ensuring all students (including Montanans) have access to funding for their postsecondary education.

We are also pleased that the senators' offices have requested information that will help them understand the economics of federal student loans. We believe the involvement of Senators Baucus and Tester is crucial to quickly identifying and adopting a truly workable solution to the current federal student loan debate.

SAF and MHESAC have always cooperated with any and all requests for information by our representatives in state government and on the federal level. Much of the information requested by the senators in this letter is publicly available on MHESAC's Web site ([www.mhesac.org](http://www.mhesac.org)) and through publicly available disclosure statements associated with every bond financing MHESAC issues. We will certainly demonstrate the highest level of cooperation possible to this request.

We at SAF and MHESAC remain committed to providing Montana students with access to higher education — we emphasize that is the true issue at hand. We stand on our record of helping Montana students succeed for more than 24 years, the superior service we provide to students and our lender partners, and our philanthropic efforts across the state.