



Jewish Social Policy Action Network

2033 Walnut Street, Philadelphia Pennsylvania 19103

April 19, 2006

VIA Facsimile to 202-228-1229

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The Honorable Arlen Specter
United States Senate
711 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-3802

Re: Higher Education Act Aid Elimination Penalty

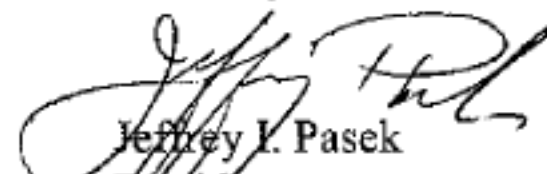
Dear Senator Specter:

On Wednesday, April 18, 2007, the Jewish Social Policy Action Network (JSPAN) Board of Directors joined the Coalition for Higher Education Act Reform (CHEAR) and added our name to a growing list of faith, education, and civil rights organizations calling for the full repeal of the Higher Education Act Aid Elimination Penalty (20 U.S.C. §1091(r)). As you may know, this law has stripped college financial aid from nearly 200,000 aspiring students with drug convictions since taking effect in 2000. Nearly 7,000 young people in Pennsylvania have been impacted. While the penalty is intended to reduce drug abuse, it actually fosters the opposite effect by blocking access to education to Americans committed to getting their lives back on track.

We value your common sense approach to crime and justice that you have consistently displayed since your time as Philadelphia's District Attorney. We also recognize the monumental issues that are atop of your agenda, and the nation's. JSPAN requests that you use your influence with Senators Kennedy and Enzi to ensure full repeal of 20 U.S.C. §1091(r).

Our Board member, Brian Gralnick, has worked on this issue since 2000 and is happy to provide you or your staff with any assistance you may require. He can be contacted at [REDACTED]. Thank you for your time on this important educational issue.

Sincerely,


Jeffrey I. Pasek
President

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