



March 10, 2022

The Honorable Stan Saylor, Chairman  
House Appropriations Committee  
245 Main Capitol Building  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

The Honorable Matthew D. Bradford, Chairman  
House Appropriations Committee  
512E Main Capitol Building  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Chairman Saylor and Chairman Bradford:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before the House Appropriations Committee on March 8, 2022 at 1:00 PM. PHEAA has a great story to tell regarding the public service that the Agency and its employees provide to students and families of the Commonwealth.

It is my hope that the information provided in advance of the hearing, as well as the answers staff provided during the hearing, will be helpful as you contemplate the 2022-2023 Commonwealth Budget.

According to the notes that PHEAA staff took during the hearing, there were two points for which we wanted to provide additional information and clarification. The first was regarding the dialogue with Representative Peter Schweyer regarding PA State Grant eligibility for undocumented individuals or individuals that identify as Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA). PHEAA responded that undocumented or DACA students do not benefit from the PA State Grant Program as they do not meet the eligibility requirement of being either a documented person or a U.S. citizen. If there is a will to change this policy, this authority does not rest with the PHEAA Board of Directors but would require an amendment to Section 4 (1) of Act 451 of 1965. PHEAA would be happy to assist in crafting a legislative priority to meet this policy change.

The second matter that I wanted to clarify was the query from Representative Meghan Schroeder regarding PHEAA's capability to track whether PA State Grant recipients obtain employment in the field of study in which they were credentialed. PHEAA responded that we do not currently track this information—primarily because we do not currently have the authority to share PA State Grant recipient data with such entities as the PA Department of Labor & Industry (L&I) to track employment post-graduation. PHEAA frequently gets asked for this type of data. PHEAA currently has a data sharing agreement in place with L&I to capture employment outcomes among PA Targeted Industry Program (PA-TIP) recipients after graduation. A similar data sharing agreement providing authority to exchange Non-Public Personal Information (NPPI) data with L&I for the PA State Grant Program could be executed.

3/18/22  
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Again, thank you for the opportunity to testify, and if you have any questions that PHEAA can answer as you finalize the 2022-2023 Commonwealth Budget, please let me know.

Sincerely,



James H. Steeley  
President & Chief Executive Officer