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Aid Elimination Penalty WEEK OF ACTION: Mon. Oct. 15 – Fri. Oct. 19

Dear Activist,

Thank you *so much* for agreeing to take part in SSDP's **Week of Action to Repeal the Aid Elimination Penalty**. Your efforts during the coming week are going to dramatically increase our chances at finally scrapping the law that strips financial aid from students with drug convictions.

This past April, SSDP chapters generated a record number of phone calls to Congress, and as a result, a Senate committee included language in the Higher Education Act to remove the penalty. Unfortunately, the Senate voted to approve a last minute "No Pell Grants for Drug Dealers" amendment that re-inserted the penalty into the bill.

But it's not over yet. We still have a good shot at getting repeal language through the House of Representatives. However, we'll likely need to beat back another unfriendly amendment, and members of Congress will only feel comfortable voting against the amendment if they hear that their constituents support repealing the penalty. **That's where you come in.**

Because SSDPers like you generated an astounding number of votes for our Facebook Speed Grant this August, we won \$1,000 that allowed us to print 15,000 postcards, a portion of which are sitting in this package. Thank you! But blank postcards do little to sway congress. We need **you** to get people to fill them out and then return them to us so we can hand-deliver them to Capitol Hill. We've done all we can to make this as easy as possible for you—now it's up to you to do the rest.

Included in this package are:

- 1) Postcards:** The main goal of the Week of Action is to get every postcard in the package filled out and sent back to us by the week of Oct. 22nd.
- 2) The How To Take Action Guide:** Outlines the best practices for getting people to fill out postcards. Each chapter member should review this guide thoroughly.
- 3) Phone script cards:** Hand these to people after they fill out a postcard and tell them that making a quick phone call will double their impact.
- 4) Two return envelopes:** Please return all completed post cards to SSDP's national office on Monday, October 22nd. If you have any left over following the Week of Action, please continue to get them filled out and send them back in the second envelope.
- 5) The everlasting appreciation of hundreds of thousands of students who have lost their aid due to drug convictions:** 'Nuff said.

Repealing this harmful penalty has been SSDP's flagship campaign since our inception in 1998. Since then, we've generated major media around this issue, built a broad-based coalition, and partially scaled back the law so that it affects fewer students. Thousands of SSDP members over the past decade have brought this issue this far, but we need you to help us give one final push so we can get rid of the penalty completely.

We've given you everything that you need, so go out there and show us what you've got. Together, we can get rid of this Drug War attack on education! After all, if we don't do it, who else will?

In Solidarity,

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P.S. After we get the postcards from you and before we deliver them to Congress, we'll enter all the names and e-mail addresses into a spreadsheet and send them back to you so you can follow up with people and let them know about your events and meetings.

P. P.S. I've also included a DVD called *Perversion of Justice*, a moving documentary about the effects of mandatory minimum sentences, particularly on women and families. This has nothing to do with the Week of Action, but I hope you'll be able to host a screening of the film sometime this semester.