



## Home School Legal Defense Association

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December 1, 2025

The Honorable Tim Walberg  
Chairman  
U.S. House Committee on Education and Workforce  
2176 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

RE: Support for the Home School Graduation Recognition Act

Dear Chairman Walberg:

On behalf of the Home School Legal Defense Association (HSLDA), I am pleased to express our strong support for the Home School Graduation Recognition Act, introduced by Representative Mark Harris, which clarifies that homeschool high school graduates meet the definition of high school graduates for purposes of federal student aid.

HSLDA was founded in 1983 to defend, advance, and promote homeschooling. Today we serve more than 90,000 member families nationwide, providing legal advocacy, legislative representation, and—when necessary—individual legal defense. A central part of our work is ensuring that federal, state, and local agencies apply the law correctly and fairly to homeschool students and graduates.

For decades, both Congress and the U.S. Department of Education have recognized that homeschool graduates are high school graduates and therefore eligible for federal student aid. Every U.S. Service Academy accepts homeschooled applicants, and the vast majority of colleges and universities do the same—many actively recruit them.

However, because the Higher Education Act places homeschool graduates under the heading “Students who are not high school graduates,” a small number of

institutions persist in misinterpreting the law. As a result, some homeschool graduates have faced discrimination or barriers to admission, including at:

- University of Phoenix;
- Pennco Tech;
- West Chester University of Pennsylvania;
- Molloy University;
- SUNY institutions;
- University of California campuses;
- Multiple cosmetology schools nationwide;
- University of Louisiana at Eunice; and
- Shippensburg University.

These cases represent a small minority of institutions but cause very real harm for affected students.

The Home School Graduation Recognition Act provides the needed correction. By clarifying that homeschool graduates meet the definition of high school graduates for federal student aid purposes, it will eliminate ambiguity, prevent ongoing misinterpretation, and ensure equal treatment for all students.

HSLDA strongly supports this legislation and appreciates your leadership on this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "James R. Mason".

James R. Mason, Esq.  
President

CC: The Honorable Mark Harris