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November 24, 2015

The Honorable Barack Obama
President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Thank you for your letter of November 9, 2015, outlining the importance of education and the changes impacting the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

As Governor of Kentucky, I strive to ensure all Kentuckians have access to an affordable education. It is vital for Kentuckians to pursue higher education in order to meet today's global economic challenges in this fast-paced, technologically-driven world. An educated workforce allows Kentucky to compete internationally to attract new business opportunities that will help grow our economy and improve our citizens' lives.

Kentucky is fortunate to have an active and innovative financial aid agency, Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority (KHEAA), to help students and their families achieve their educational goals. Not only does KHEAA administer the need-based grants, merit-based scholarships, work-study opportunities and college-savings plans, but they also provide outreach services to help families plan, prepare and apply for college.

Kentucky supports the importance of filing the FAFSA and promotes completing the process as early as possible. We have participated in the FAFSA Completion Initiative since its inception and have been extremely successful in getting more high school students to complete their FAFSAs. We have also built on that success with College Application Month activities during which we provide assistance to students to complete their college applications.

I am proud of Kentucky's investment in education. When federal government and state governments continue to work together and find ways to partner, our citizens will be able to achieve their educational goals and be prepared for the demands of the 21st century workforce.

Sincerely,

Steven L. Beshear