



NATIONAL DISTRICT  
ATTORNEYS ASSOCIATION  
THE VOICE OF AMERICA'S PROSECUTORS

The Honorable Linda E. McMahon  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Ave SW, Washington, DC 20202

Re: Proposed Rulemaking for Public Service Loan Forgiveness under 34 CFR 685.219 (i)—  
*Process for Determining When an Employer Engaged in Activities that Have a Substantial  
Illegal Purpose*

Dear Secretary McMahon,

The National District Attorneys Association (NDA) represents the unified voice of America's prosecutors, with its members consisting of elected and appointed district attorneys and their staff across the country. NDA wishes to express its support for the proposed amendments in §685.219(i) *Process for Determining When an Employer Engaged in Activities that Have a Substantial Illegal Purpose*.

As elected district attorneys, assistant prosecutors, and career staff committed to upholding public safety and the rule of law, we applaud the Department's new paragraph (i)(2). Prosecutorial offices often operate under a single state government-wide employer identification number (EIN). This means all separate divisions within a state government that function independently in staffing, budgeting, and day-to-day decision-making are all under the same EIN. By explicitly establishing that each department qualifies as a "separate and distinct" employer for PSLF purposes, the Department eliminates confusion that could unintentionally disqualify an office from forgiveness benefits they rightfully earned and were not in violation for illegal activity. This clarity strengthens morale across prosecutor offices by ensuring that they will not be denied PSLF for the actions of another office.

This provision upholds the core intent of PSLF to reward genuine public service. Prosecutors frequently forgo higher private-sector salaries to protect vulnerable communities, prosecute violent offenders, and develop prevention programs. Including the clarification in paragraph (i)(2) ensures a simple, yet powerful promise: if you serve your community for the public good – often at a personal and financial cost – your community will support you in return.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this comment. NDA welcomes the chance to further participate on the role PSLF plays in sustaining our prosecutorial workforce and protecting the American public.