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Carna Pfeil, Ph.D., Interim Executive Director

*Promoting high quality, ready access, and efficient use of resources
in Nebraska higher education.*

Memorandum

To: Revenue Committee of the Nebraska Legislature

From: Carna Pfeil, Ph.D.
Interim Executive Director
Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education

Date: Feb. 12, 2014

Subject: LB 787

I request that the following be read into the record:

I submit this memorandum as testimony in favor of LB 787.

According to a recent report from the Institute for College Access and Success, the average debt for student loan borrowers attending four-year institutions was \$29,400 for the class of 2012. Many of these students take that burden with them to graduate school, where their debt levels continue to rise.

Senator Schumacher's bill attempts to offer some financial relief to Nebraskans who choose to earn graduate degrees, which are vital and often required for many of the professions that fuel our state's economy. I realize this committee is dealing with many difficult tax-related issues this session. I ask that you please give strong consideration to this proposal, as well.

Commissioners

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