

November 1, 2015
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The Honorable Nikki R. Haley
1205 Pendleton Street
Columbia, SC 29201

Dear Governor Nikki Haley,

I am very fortunate to have been provided with an excellent education that prepared me for the future. I graduated from Anderson University in May 2014 and began my teaching career in August 2014 at Eastside Elementary School in Laurens School District 56. I am sincerely passionate about educating and impacting young children.

As a supporter of education, I am sure you are aware of the TEACH Grant offered to future educators through the U.S. Department of Education. TEACH Grant offers financial support and in return future educators agree to teach full time as a highly qualified teacher in a high need field at an eligible school. I agreed to the terms of TEACH Grant and received their financial support (acct #1722218159). After graduation, I accepted a 4th grade teaching position at Eastside Elementary School in Clinton, SC. I relocated to Clinton and endured a very difficult first year of teaching at a Title I school. During this year, I changed my account with MyFedLoan.org to a "paperless" account, with the assumption emails would be sent to my personal email I provided. When Certification Requirements were due to verify that I had fulfilled my service obligations, emails were sent to my inbox on MyFedLoan.org. I did not receive notifications that these requirements were due through any other form of communication. On October 15, 2015 my grants were converted to loans due to failure to verify my service obligation. I was notified after my grants were converted with a paper letter on October 17, 2015, even though my account was still "paperless". The TEACH Grant is established to benefit educators but the neglect of sending letters to ensure I was aware of the verification form, before my grants were converted, was a disservice to me as an educator.

I initially applied for TEACH Grant for financial assistance in school due to being limited on funds. Currently earning a second year teacher's salary, I do not have the funding to pay this loan.

I ask for your support in this matter, due to my devotion to education. I have served the state of South Carolina and met the requirements of my service obligation of the TEACH Grant. I feel as though this is an injustice to the devoted educators working in Title I schools. Thank you for your support and consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,
Morgan Fields