

**FACES &  
VOICES  
OF RECOVERY**

**For Immediate Release**  
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**Statement Regarding Removing Impediments to Student  
Education (RISE) Act Reintroduction**

*Statement Attributable to Patricia Taylor, Campaign Coordinator, Faces & Voices of  
Recovery*

Washington, DC – “Members of Congress today showed their commitment to access to education, the key to opportunity in our country, for individuals who are trying to improve their lives and enter the mainstream of society, by supporting repeal of the ban on federal financial aid to students with drug convictions.

“Making it possible for all students to receive federal financial aid is a bi-partisan issue. Congress should send a message of support and hope and remove this barrier to the thousands of Americans in recovery from addiction who are trying to further their education to rebuild their lives. People in recovery from drug addiction seek education and training so that they can maintain their recovery, support themselves and their families, and contribute to society.”

“The ban on federal financial aid unfairly punishes people a second time – after they have paid for their offenses. Denying or delaying access to higher education is not solving our nation’s drug problems. Among the tens of thousands of students not receiving aid are many in recovery from addiction who want to start over. We should encourage these individuals to get the education they need and fully participate in American life.”