

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**KENNEDY CALLS ON EDUCATION SECRETARY TO SHUT DOWN DATABASE FOR THIRD PARTY USE**

***Letter calls into question the security of National Student Loan Data System***

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Last evening, Senator Edward M. Kennedy, Chairman of the Senate's Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee sent the following letter to Secretary of Education Secretary Margaret Spellings. The letter urges the Secretary to shut down the database to lenders. Recent reports indicate that lenders have been breaching the security of the database and mining private student information.

Kennedy also asks for documents related to the database and security breaches as part of his ongoing investigation into the student loan industry and its practices.

The letter is included below.

April 15, 2007

The Honorable Margaret Spellings  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Avenue, SW, Room 7W301  
Washington, DC 20202

Dear Secretary Spellings:

I am deeply concerned by recent reports that private lenders are using the National Student Loan Data System (NSLDS) to search and retrieve confidential personal information about student borrowers without their permission. More disturbing is the fact that lenders are apparently using this information to aggressively market to students. The privacy of every borrower must be a top priority for the Department. Until the security of the database can be ensured, I urge you to block the use of the database by private lenders.

Please also provide me with any documents generated from 2002 to the present, including investigative reports, correspondence, e-mails, and memoranda, related to breaches in security in the NSLDS. In addition, please submit any available information from this period regarding the Department of Education's attempts to stop the inappropriate use of the information in the database and enforcement actions taken against those inappropriately using the database.

If there are any questions, Nick Bath on my staff would be pleased to work with your staff. He can be reached at (202) 224-6912. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Edward M. Kennedy

Chairman

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