

**Maria Flynn, President and CEO of Jobs for the Future:** “As federal borrowing limits tighten under the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, more students will face financing gaps and be left with few options but private loans that often charge higher rates to students from low-income backgrounds and lack meaningful protections for these borrowers. JFF applauds Senators Young and Warner and Representatives Houchin and Torres for introducing the Outcomes-Based Financing for Students Act of 2026, which would expand access to more flexible, student-centered financing options while protecting students from bad actors. This legislation recognizes both the promise and the risks of outcomes-based financing and takes a thoughtful approach by clarifying existing regulatory guardrails and establishing strong consumer protections tailored to these models. By doing so, it creates a pathway for responsible innovation that can improve affordability, accountability, and access across higher education and workforce training that is essential for economic advancement.”

**Kevin James, CEO of Better Future Forward:** “Well-designed outcomes-based financing (OBF) programs open up support for students underserved in the current system, and they do so in a way that is affordable and aligned to students’ educational and career success. To ensure all students are protected and can benefit from these options, we need a strong, well-designed consumer protection framework built around the risk-sharing nature of OBF programs. This bipartisan legislation is a strong step forward in that regard, and we commend Sens. Young and Warner and Reps. Houchin and Torres for their work on it.”

**Tracy Palandjian, CEO & Co-Founder of Social Finance:** “This bipartisan bill would ensure that learners are not hit with an unexpected tax bill if their post-training earnings aren’t high enough to trigger a repayment obligation. Lower-income individuals who have complied fully with their repayment agreements should not be penalized simply because the program’s protections worked as intended. This common-sense protection is essential to realizing the risk-sharing promise of outcomes-based financing to align funding with learners’ job success.”

**Michael Pearson, Director of Workforce Development Policy for the Progressive Policy Institute:** “PPI has long supported bold and innovative models for higher education financing, and the Outcomes-Based Financing for Students Act of 2026 is exactly that. This approach allows borrowers of all backgrounds to finance their own postsecondary education or training with the future earnings that investment enables, while also improving borrower protections in the private market and supporting only the programs that lead to improved career outcomes and increased earnings.”

**Susie Sewell, Director of Strategy and Policy at The Forward Fund:** “Students should not have to take on unaffordable risk to access education that leads to opportunity. Outcomes-based financing represents a student-first approach—one that defers repayment until success is realized and aligns financing with real labor market outcomes. We commend this bipartisan effort to bring clarity, consistency, and consumer protections to this emerging space, and to create a pathway for responsible innovation that expands access to economic mobility.

**Keith Shoates, President and CEO of Student Freedom Initiative:** “We applaud Senators Warner and Young, alongside Representatives Houchin and Torres for championing the Outcomes-Based Financing for Students Act of 2026 to improve outcomes-based financing programs. By establishing clear guidelines for lenders and strong protections for students, this bipartisan legislation aligns with Student Freedom Initiative’s mission to expand access to education and help eliminate the structural and societal barriers that contribute to the wealth gap in the United States.”