

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 10, 2023

U.S. Census Bureau
4600 Silver Hill Road
Washington, DC 20233

Dear Director Santos,

I write to commend the Census Bureau for creating a pilot website to help Americans better understand employment outcomes for graduates of colleges and universities from across the country, and to encourage you to make it easier for Americans to discover this fantastic resource.

For many Americans, the decision to attend college is one of the most expensive decisions they will make in their lives. Students and their families deserve the opportunity to make an informed choice when they pursue a higher education, and that includes making sure that they have access to data about employment outcomes. As the author of the Student Right to Know Before You Go Act, which would make sure prospective college students can access data about schools' graduation rates, debt levels, and how much graduates can expect to earn, I was excited to learn about the Census Bureau's Post-Secondary Employment Outcomes (PSEO) Explorer. This website provides important and detailed data from institutions of higher education about potential earning outcomes based on degree and major, as well as information about the flow of postgraduate employment across industries and geographic locations. Importantly, the PSEO Explorer makes high quality data available to prospective college students, while also protecting the privacy of students and graduates through an advanced differential privacy algorithm.

I am proud that this website builds on the ideas in my Student Right to Know Before You Go Act, and I look forward to working with you to ensure that this tool can be widely used by students and their families. DoEd offers the College Scorecard, another valuable tool for prospective college students. I believe that it would be prudent for your offices to cooperate in order to expand access to this vital information for all prospective students who are interested in pursuing secondary education.

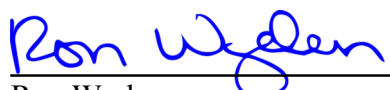
To that end, I request that you provide me with answers to the following questions by June 7, 2023:

1. What resources do you need to collaborate with DoEd and ensure that all students who apply for financial aid using the Federal Application for Student Financial Aid receive information about the PSEO Explorer?
2. Can you provide a timeline for when the Census Bureau will be able to provide a simple link and landing page for the PSEO Explorer that can be more easily shared?
3. In order to further this valuable work and continue to expand coverage to additional institutes of higher education and states, what additional resources does the Census Bureau require from Congress to aid you in your efforts?

If you have any questions about this letter, please reach out to my staffer Alex Bertschi Wrigley at alex_bertschiwrigley@wyden.senate.gov.

CC: Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ron Wyden". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Ron Wyden
United States Senator