June 26, 2013

Dear friends,

In just five days, interest rates on federal student loans are scheduled to double. That means students with an average loan rate could see an additional $1,000 charged against their loan each year. In Illinois, this could impact more than 360,000 students.

But, if Congress acts before July 1, we can prevent those rates from doubling, much like we did when we faced the same deadline last year. I’m asking for your help to ensure that middle class families aren’t priced out of an education.

Here’s what you can do:

- Use social media. Post on Facebook and Twitter with the hashtag #DontDoubleMyRate. A similar social media campaign last year was instrumental in urging Congress to take action.

- Call your U.S. Representative’s district office. Enter your address on the State Board of Elections website to find the information you need to contact your elected official. A suggested outline of what you can say is in a separate attachment.

- Visit www.facebook.com/SheilaSimonIL to weigh in on plans to stop the increase in student loan interest rates.

- Spread the word! Share this message with your friends, family, student groups and other networks.

Elected representatives need to hear from you about how an extra $1,000 annual charge will impact you and your family.

Unless Congress acts, your interest rates will double on July 1. Take a few minutes now to get in touch with your Congressman, and ask your family and friends to do the same.

Sincerely,

Sheila Simon
Illinois Lt. Governor