

Loeb sack: House Leaders Hang “Closed for Business” Sign on Capitol

Written by Vonnie Hampel
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Go on Vacation Leaving Farmers and Students Without a Way Forward

Washington, D.C. – Congressman Dave Loebsack released the following statement today after House leaders sent Congress home for a vacation without a plan on how they will move forward a farm bill that can be signed into law and also ensure student loan rates don't increase on July 1st.

Last week, House leadership failed to pass a farm bill and have not made any progress finding a way to move the bill forward. Earlier this week, Loebsack worked to push the farm bill process forward by introducing the Senate farm bill in the House ([HR 2498](#)). Loebsack supported the House version and has worked to find a compromise to make sure farmers and rural communities get the certainty they deserve.

"It is inexcusable that the House is going on a week vacation without a clear plan on how to move a farm bill forward. I introduced the Senate farm bill in the House because it passed with strong bipartisan support - including from both Senators Harkin and Grassley. After voting down the farm bill last week, the House should find a commonsense way to move a farm bill forward by taking up the bipartisan Senate legislation. I, along with others who supported the House bill last week, have called on the Speaker to bring the Senate bill up for a vote so Congress can get a bill to the President that can be signed into law."

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Loebsack also continues to pressure House leaders to act to prevent student loan rates from doubling on July 1st. Student loan interest rates are currently 3.4 percent, but are set to double to 6.8 percent on Monday due to the lack of Congressional action. Today, Loebsack cosponsored legislation (H.R. 2574), which is fully paid for, to halt the increase. He also [spoke on the House](#) floor urging House leaders to stay in session until an agreement was made to stop the increase.

“When the House leadership hung a “Closed for Business” sign on the House chambers, they sent a strong signal to students that Congress just doesn’t get it. I have heard from many lowans that they would not be able to attend college without this assistance. I could not have gone to college and would not be where I am today without the availability of student loans and other financial assistance programs. It is shameful that Congress left town leaving our students to face the consequences of their inaction.”

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