August 25, 2006

Governor Jon S. Corzine
125 West State Street
P.O. Box 001
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0001

Re: Social Service Student Loan Redemption Program Annual Report

Dear Governor Corzine:

I am pleased to submit to you and the Legislature the Annual Report of the Social Service Student Loan Redemption Program, as required by the Program’s enabling statute.

Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A: 71B-87 the Social Services Student Loan Redemption Program Act was enacted January 2006. The Social Service Student Loan Redemption Program (SSSLRP) provides loan redemption to recent college graduates who are hired as full-time direct care professionals at public or non-profit social service agencies. In exchange for full-time employment at a qualified facility, the program will redeem student loan amounts of up to $20,000 to finance the undergraduate or graduate study of eligible program participants. This program redeems loans up to an amount of $5,000 per year of the principal and interest of eligible student loans in return for satisfactory completion of a full year of approved employment. Applicants cannot be in default of any student loan.

The Higher Education Student Assistance Authority (HESAA) grants loan forgiveness awards subject to the availability of appropriated funds. Eighty percent is allocated to provide loan redemption to finance the undergraduate study of program participants and twenty percent is allocated to finance the graduate study of program participants.

To participate in the program, applicants must be a resident of the State of New Jersey, and must have been hired as a direct care professional within one year after completing a bachelor’s degree program, or a graduate degree program leading to a master’s degree in a human service discipline, such as social work, psychology or counseling, or a health related profession, such as occupational, physical or speech therapy. Participants will be required to enter into a written contract with HESAA specifying the duration of required service and the total amount of loans to be redeemed in
return for service. Eligible candidates must have been employed at the qualified facility on or after July 14, 2005.

Furthermore, N.J.S.A. 18A:71B-95 provides:

The Authority to annually submit a report on the program to the Governor and chairmen of the Senate Budget and Appropriations, Assembly Appropriations, Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens, and Assembly Health and Human Services committees, or their successors committees. The report shall... include, but not be limited to, the following information for the prior year fiscal year:

a. The total number of participants receiving loan redemption under the program;
   b. the approved course of study of each of the participants; and
   c. the total number of participants who withdrew from the program and failed to complete the program’s employment requirement.

In accordance with N.J.S.A.18A:71B-95, HESAA’s Annual Report on the Social Services Student Loan Redemption Program is as follows:

   a. As of August 2006 the total number of participants receiving loan redemption under the program is 175.

   b. The approved course of study of each of the participants is:

   Applied Clinical Psychology
   Art Therapy
   Behavioral Sciences
   Clinical/Counseling Psychology
   Counseling
   Counseling Psychology
   Educational Psychology
   Environmental Policy & Psychology
   Family & Child Studies (Family Services)
   Human Development
   Human Services
   Marital Family Therapy
   Marriage and Family Counseling
   Mental Health Counsel - App Psy
   Occupational Therapy
   Provisional Social Work

   Psychological Counseling
   Psychology
   Psychology/Psychiatric Rehabilitation
   Public Health
   Social and Behavioral Sciences/Social Work
   Social Policy and Practice
   Social Psychology
   Social Work
   Social Work/Clinical Social Work
   Sociology
   Sociology/Communications
   Sociology/Criminal Justice
   Special Education
   Speech Language and Hearing Science
   Speech Language Pathologist
c. No participants have withdrawn from the program nor failed to complete the program’s employment requirement.

Based on the strong interest in the Social Service Student Loan Redemption Program, we anticipate the program funding as appropriated is necessary to meet current needs. Future additional appropriations may be warranted, to fulfill the intent of the enabling legislation.

As set forth in the above-referenced statute, I am hereby transmitting a copy of this Annual Report to the chairmen of the respective legislative committees. We hope this information is useful to you. The New Jersey Higher Education Student Assistance Authority is pleased to administer this important program on behalf of the citizens of New Jersey. Should you have any questions regarding the Social Services Student Loan Redemption Program, I can be reached directly at 609-588-7113.

Sincerely yours,

E. Michael Angulo
Executive Director

Cc: The Honorable Wayne R. Bryant, Esq.
Chair, Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee

The Honorable Nelida Pou
Chair, Assembly Appropriations Committee

The Honorable Joseph Vitale
Chair, Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee

The Honorable Herb Conaway
Chair, Assembly Health and Senior Services Committee

The Honorable Joseph Cryan
Chair, Assembly Human Services Committee