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WILLIAM E. GUNN
CHIEF OF STAFF

MEMORANDUM

TO: Human Resource Directors and Payroll Staff

FROM: Shane Rutherford
Statewide Payroll Manager

DATE: March 31, 2020

SUBJECT: Dept. of Education Federal Student Loan Garnishments

On March 25th, 2020 U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos announced that, due to the COVID-19 national emergency, the department will halt collections to help borrowers. This action suspends the collection of wage garnishments for defaulted student loans issued under the Dept of Education. This suspension is set for a period of 60 days lasting until May 12th. This means the deductions are only temporarily stopped and will start again on the May 15th pay check. **Please note this does not stop all deductions, but only those garnishments falling under the U.S. Department of Education.**

This notification was received after the 3/16/2020 and 4/1/2020 payroll was completed. The Department of Education has indicated any deductions received after this order will qualify for a refund. **Our office will not be processing these as they will be handled by the U.S. Dept of Education's processing center.** For any employee questions regarding this process we direct them to Dept. of Ed's Default Resolution group number at 1-800-621-3115.

Please find the attached list of your agency's employees impacted by this temporary suspension. For further information please see the U.S. Department of Education's website at the following link <https://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/secretary-devos-directs-fsa-stop-wage-garnishment-collections-actions-student-loan-borrowers-will-refund-more-18-billion-students-families> .