

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7457

To direct the Secretary of Education to count months during which Peace Corps volunteers and AmeriCorps members have eligible Federal Direct Loans in deferment or forbearance toward eligibility for public service loan forgiveness, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 26, 2024

Mr. GARAMENDI (for himself, Mr. LYNCH, Ms. NORTON, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. CARSON, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. TRONE, and Ms. GARCIA of Texas) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Education to count months during which Peace Corps volunteers and AmeriCorps members have eligible Federal Direct Loans in deferment or forbearance toward eligibility for public service loan forgiveness, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Peace Corps and
5 AmeriCorps Student Loan Forgiveness Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. DEFERMENT PERIODS FOR PEACE CORPS VOLUN-**
2 **TEERS AND AMERICORPS MEMBERS COUNT-**
3 **ED TOWARD PUBLIC SERVICE LOAN FOR-**
4 **GIVENESS.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 455(m) of the Higher
6 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1087e(m)) is amend-
7 ed—

8 (1) by redesignating paragraphs (2) through
9 (4) as paragraphs (3) through (5), respectively;

10 (2) in paragraph (1), in the matter preceding
11 subparagraph (A), by striking “paragraph (2)” and
12 inserting “paragraph (3)”; and

13 (3) by inserting after paragraph (1) the fol-
14 lowing:

15 “(2) TREATMENT OF CERTAIN PERIODS OF
16 DEFERMENT OR FORBEARANCE.—

17 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any
18 other provision of this subsection, each month
19 of a period described in subparagraph (B) with
20 respect to a borrower of an eligible Federal Di-
21 rect Loan shall be treated as if the borrower
22 made a qualifying payment under paragraph
23 (1)(A) on such loan.

24 “(B) PERIOD DESCRIBED.—A period de-
25 scribed in this subparagraph is any period after
26 October 1, 2007, during which a borrower—

1 “(i) owes an outstanding balance on
2 an eligible Federal Direct Loan;

3 “(ii) is in an authorized period of
4 deferment or forbearance; and

5 “(iii) serves—

6 “(I) as a Peace Corps volunteer
7 or volunteer leader (as referred to in
8 the Peace Corps Act (22 U.S.C. 2501
9 et seq.)); or

10 “(II) in an approved national
11 service position (as defined in section
12 101 of the National and Community
13 Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C.
14 12511)).”.

15 (b) CONSULTATION REQUIREMENT.—In imple-
16 menting section 455(m)(2) of the Higher Education Act
17 of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1087e(m)(2)) (as amended by sub-
18 section (a) of this section) the Secretary of Education
19 shall consult with—

20 (1) the Director of the Peace Corps;

21 (2) the Chief Executive Officer of the Corpora-
22 tion for National and Community Service; and

23 (3) borrowers who may be affected by the im-
24 plementation of such section, including current and

- 1 former volunteers of the Peace Corps and current
- 2 and former AmeriCorps members.

