

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 5586

To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide for a percentage of student loan forgiveness for public service employment, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

DECEMBER 18 (legislative day, DECEMBER 16), 2024

Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Mr. CARDIN, Ms. WARREN, Ms. HIRONO, and Ms. SMITH) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide for a percentage of student loan forgiveness for public service employment, 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 “Strengthening Loan
5 Forgiveness for Public Servants Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. PUBLIC SERVICE LOAN FORGIVENESS PROGRAM.**

7 Section 455(m) of the Higher Education Act of 1965
8 (20 U.S.C. 1087e(m)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by inserting “, except as provided in paragraph (5),” after “on any eligible Federal Direct Loan not in default”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(5) LOAN CANCELLATION FOR NEW LOANS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Beginning after the date of enactment of the Strengthening Loan Forgiveness for Public Servants Act, after the conclusion of each employment period in a public service job, as described in subparagraph (B), the Secretary shall cancel the percent specified in such subparagraph of the total amount due on any eligible Federal Direct Loan made after the date of enactment of the Strengthening Loan Forgiveness for Public Servants Act for a borrower who is employed in such public service job and submits an employment certification form described in subparagraph (C).

“(B) PERCENT AMOUNT.—The percent of a loan that shall be canceled under subparagraph (A) is as follows:

“(i) In the case of a borrower who completes 2 years of employment in a public service job, 15 percent of the total

1 amount due on the eligible Federal Direct
2 Loan on the date the borrower commenced
3 employment in such public service job.

4 “(ii) In the case of a borrower who
5 completes 4 years of employment in a pub-
6 lic service job, 15 percent of the total
7 amount due on the eligible Federal Direct
8 Loan on the date the borrower commenced
9 employment in such public service job.

10 “(iii) In the case of a borrower who
11 completes 6 years of employment in a pub-
12 lic service job, 20 percent of the total
13 amount due on the eligible Federal Direct
14 Loan on the date the borrower commenced
15 employment in such public service job.

16 “(iv) In the case of a borrower who
17 completes 8 years of employment in a pub-
18 lic service job, 20 percent of the total
19 amount due on the eligible Federal Direct
20 Loan on the date the borrower commenced
21 employment in such public service job.

22 “(v) In the case of a borrower who
23 completes 10 years of employment in a
24 public service job, 30 percent of the total
25 amount due on the eligible Federal Direct

1 Loan on the date the borrower commenced
2 employment in such public service job.

3 “(C) EMPLOYMENT CERTIFICATION
4 FORM.—

5 “(i) IN GENERAL.—In order to receive
6 loan cancellation under this paragraph, a
7 borrower shall submit to the Secretary an
8 employment certification form that is de-
9 veloped by the Secretary and includes self-
10 certification of employment and a separate
11 part for employer certification that indi-
12 cates the dates of employment.

13 “(ii) DEFERMENT.—If a borrower
14 submits to the Secretary the employment
15 certification form described in clause (i),
16 during the period in which the borrower is
17 employed in a public service job for which
18 loan cancellation is eligible under this
19 paragraph, the borrower’s eligible Federal
20 Direct Loan shall be placed in deferment.

21 “(D) INTEREST CANCELED.—

22 “(i) IN GENERAL.—If a portion of a
23 loan is canceled under this paragraph for
24 any year, the entire amount of interest on

1 such loan that accrues for such year shall
2 be canceled.

3 “(ii) INTEREST CANCELED DURING
4 REVIEW.—The Secretary shall cancel any
5 interest that accrues that is not otherwise
6 canceled pursuant to this paragraph for a
7 borrower who receives loan cancellation
8 under this paragraph during the period be-
9 ginning on the date the borrower submits
10 an application for loan cancellation under
11 this paragraph until the date the borrower
12 receives loan cancellation pursuant to such
13 application that is approved.”.

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