

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. _____

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

Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Ms. SMITH, Ms. WARREN, Ms. HIRONO, and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on _____

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

5 (2) by adding at the end the following:

6 “(5) LOAN CANCELLATION FOR NEW LOANS.—

7 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Beginning after the
8 date of enactment of the Strengthening Loan
9 Forgiveness for Public Servants Act, after the
10 conclusion of each employment period in a pub-
11 lic service job, as described in subparagraph
12 (B), the Secretary shall cancel the percent spec-
13 ified in such subparagraph of the total amount
14 due on any eligible Federal Direct Loan made
15 after the date of enactment of the Strengthen-
16 ing Loan Forgiveness for Public Servants Act
17 for a borrower who is employed in such public
18 service job and submits an employment certifi-
19 cation form described in subparagraph (C).

20 “(B) PERCENT AMOUNT.—The percent of
21 a loan that shall be canceled under subpara-
22 graph (A) is as follows:

23 “(i) In the case of a borrower who
24 completes 2 years of employment in a pub-
25 lic 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.—If a portion
22 of a loan is canceled under this paragraph for
23 any year, the entire amount of interest on such
24 loan that accrues for such year shall be can-
25 celed.”.