

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 4253

To prohibit the mass cancellation of student loans.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 18 (legislative day, MAY 17), 2022

Mr. ROMNEY (for himself, Mr. BURR, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. CASIDY, and Mr. TILLIS) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To prohibit the mass cancellation of student loans.

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 “Student Loan Account-
5 ability Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

8 (1) Congress does not hide elephants in
9 mouseholes; statutory authority has not been pro-
10 vided to the executive branch of the Federal Govern-
11 ment to cancel student loans on a mass scale.

1 (2) Through strained readings of statute, lib-
2 eral interest groups assert that a mass cancellation
3 event would be legal.

4 (3) It is unfair for taxpayers who paid student
5 loans or did not attend college to pay for those who
6 chose to take student loans.

7 **SEC. 3. PROHIBITION ON MASS CANCELLATION OF STU-**
8 **DENT LOANS.**

9 (a) PROHIBITION.—

10 (1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other
11 provision of law, the Secretary of Education, the
12 Secretary of the Treasury, or the Attorney General
13 shall not take any action to cancel or forgive the
14 outstanding balances, or portion of balances, of cov-
15 ered loans, except as provided in paragraph (2).

16 (2) EXEMPTION.—The prohibition described in
17 paragraph (1) shall not apply to targeted Federal
18 student loan forgiveness, cancellation, or repayment
19 programs carried out under the Higher Education
20 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001 et seq.), under final
21 regulations as in effect on May 11, 2022.

22 (b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the term “covered
23 loan” means—

24 (1) a loan made, insured, or guaranteed under
25 part B, D, or E of title IV of the Higher Education

1 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1071 et seq.; 1087a et seq.;
2 1087aa et seq.) before, on, or after the date of en-
3 actment of this Act; or

4 (2) a loan under the Health Education Assist-
5 ance Loan Program under title VII of the Public
6 Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 292 et seq.) made be-
7 fore, on, or after the date of enactment of this Act.

8 (c) LIMITATION.—The Secretary of Education, the
9 Secretary of the Treasury, or the Attorney General may
10 not implement, or publish in any form, any regulation, or
11 take any action, that modifies, alters, amends, cancels,
12 discharges, forgives, or defers the repayment of any stu-
13 dent debt not expressly permitted within statute or regula-
14 tion as in effect on March 12, 2020, regarding covered
15 loans, except to the extent that such regulation or action
16 reflects the clear and unequivocal intent of Congress in
17 legislation.

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