

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 4039

To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to reverse the reductions in Federal loan availability for graduate and professional students enacted under Public Law 119–21.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 10, 2026

Ms. ALSOBROOKS (for herself, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. KAINE, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. KIM, Ms. CANTWELL, Ms. SMITH, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MERKLEY, and Mr. LUJÁN) 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 reverse the reductions in Federal loan availability for graduate and professional students enacted under Public Law 119–21.

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 “Professional Degree
5 Access Restoration Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. ANNUAL AND AGGREGATE LOAN LIMITS FOR GRAD-**
 2 **UATE AND PROFESSIONAL STUDENTS.**

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

6 (1) in paragraph (3)—

7 (A) in the paragraph heading, by striking
 8 “AND FEDERAL DIRECT PLUS LOANS”;

9 (B) in subparagraph (A)—

10 (i) by striking the heading for sub-
 11 paragraph (A), and inserting the following:
 12 “IN GENERAL”;

13 (ii) in the matter preceding clause (i),
 14 by inserting before the dash at the end the
 15 following: “, for any period of instruction
 16 beginning on or after July 1, 2012”;

17 (iii) in clause (i), by striking “for any
 18 period of instruction beginning on or after
 19 July 1, 2012,”; and

20 (iv) in clause (ii), by striking “for any
 21 period of instruction beginning on July 1,
 22 2012, and ending on June 30, 2026,”; and

23 (C) by striking subparagraph (C); and

24 (2) by striking paragraph (4), and redesign-
 25 ating paragraphs (5) through (8) as paragraphs
 26 (4) through (7), respectively.

1 (b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—
 2 Section 455(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20
 3 U.S.C. 1087e(a)), as amended by subsection (a), is further
 4 amended—

5 (1) in paragraph (4), as redesignated by sub-
 6 section (a)(2), by striking “paragraph (8)” and in-
 7 serting “paragraph (7)” both places the term ap-
 8 pears;

9 (2) in paragraph (5), as redesignated by sub-
 10 section (a)(2), by striking “paragraph (8)” and in-
 11 serting “paragraph (7)”; and

12 (3) in paragraph (7), as redesignated by sub-
 13 section (a)(2), by striking “Paragraphs (3)(C), (4),
 14 (5), and (6) shall not apply, and paragraph
 15 (3)(A)(ii) shall apply as such paragraph was in ef-
 16 fect for periods of instruction ending before June
 17 30, 2026,” and inserting “(4), and (5)” and insert-
 18 ing “Paragraphs (4) and (5) shall not apply”.

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