

107TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3163

To provide student loan forgiveness to the surviving spouses of the victims
of the September 11, 2001, tragedies.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 23, 2001

Mrs. McCARTHY of New York (for herself, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. OWENS, Mr. NADLER, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. ROEMER, Mr. SHAYS, Mrs. MINK of Hawaii, Mr. MALONEY of Connecticut, Mr. SCOTT, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. EVANS, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. FOSSELLA, Mr. GRUCCI, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. ISRAEL, Mrs. KELLY, Mr. LAFALCE, Mrs. MALONEY of New York, Mr. McHUGH, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Mr. QUINN, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. REYNOLDS, Mr. SERRANO, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. SWEENEY, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. WALSH, Mr. WEINER, Ms. WOOLSEY, Ms. SOLIS, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. KING, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. DOYLE, Mr. BALDACCIO, Mr. WU, Ms. DELAUBRO, Mr. ACKERMAN, Mr. GILMAN, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. BERMAN, Ms. PELOSI, Mr. WAXMAN, Ms. BERKLEY, Mr. DELAHUNT, Mr. CAPUANO, and Mr. LYNCH) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

A BILL

To provide student loan forgiveness to the surviving spouses
of the victims of the September 11, 2001, tragedies.

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

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “September 11 Sur-
3 viving Spouse Student Loan Relief Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. CANCELLATION OF STUDENT LOAN INDEBTEDNESS**
5 **FOR SPOUSES.**

6 (a) **DEFINITIONS.**—For purposes of this section:

7 (1) **ELIGIBLE SPOUSE.**—The term “eligible
8 spouse” means the spouse of an individual who
9 served as a policeman, fireman, other safety or res-
10 cue personnel or as a member of the Armed Forces,
11 or any other individual, who died (or dies) or became
12 (or becomes) permanently and totally disabled due to
13 injuries suffered in the terrorist attack on Sep-
14 tember 11, 2001, as determined in accordance with
15 regulations of the Secretary.

16 (2) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means
17 the Secretary of Education.

18 (3) **FEDERAL STUDENT LOAN.**—The term
19 “Federal student loan” means any loan made, in-
20 sured, or guaranteed under part B, D, or E of title
21 IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965.

22 (b) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall provide for
23 the discharge or cancellation of the Federal student loan
24 indebtedness of an eligible spouse in the same manner that
25 the Federal student loan indebtedness of an individual de-
26 scribed in subsection (a)(1) of this section is required to

1 be discharged or canceled under sections 437(a),
2 455(a)(1), and 464(c)(1)(F) of the Higher Education Act
3 of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1087(a), 1087e(a)(1),
4 1087dd(c)(1)(F)), as the case may be.

5 (c) FACILITATION OF CLAIMS.—The Secretary
6 shall—

7 (1) by regulation, establish procedures for the
8 filing of applications for discharge or cancellation
9 under this section, which regulations shall be pre-
10 scribed and published within 30 days after the date
11 of enactment of this Act and without regard to the
12 requirements of section 553 of title 5, United States
13 Code; and

14 (2) take such actions as may be necessary to
15 publicize the availability of discharge or cancellation
16 of Federal student loan indebtedness for eligible
17 spouses under this section.

18 (d) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS FOR PAYMENTS.—
19 Funds available for the purposes of making payments to
20 lenders in accordance with section 437(a) for the dis-
21 charge of indebtedness of individuals described in sub-
22 section (a)(1) of this section shall be available for making
23 payments under section 437(a) to the spouses of such indi-
24 viduals as required by this section.

1 (e) NO DELAY IN REGULATIONS.—Sections 482(c)
2 and 492 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
3 1089(c), 1098a) shall not apply to the regulations re-
4 quired by this section.

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