

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1547

To preserve mathematics- and science-based industries in the United States.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 12, 2005

Mr. WOLF (for himself, Mr. EHLERS, and Mr. BOEHLERT) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

A BILL

To preserve mathematics- and science-based industries in the United States.

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 “Math and Science In-
5 centive Act of 2005”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress finds the following:

8 (1) The United States can have a secure and
9 prosperous future only by having a robust and in-
10 ventive scientific and technical enterprise.

1 (2) Such an enterprise will require the United
2 States to produce more scientists and engineers.

3 (3) The United States education system must
4 do more to encourage students at every level to
5 study science and mathematics and to pursue ca-
6 reers related to those fields.

7 (4) The current performance of United States
8 students in science and math lags behind their inter-
9 national peers, and not enough students are pur-
10 suing science and mathematics.

11 (5) The United States is still reaping the bene-
12 fits of past investments in research and development
13 and education, but we are drawing down that cap-
14 ital.

15 (6) The United States needs to recommit itself
16 to leadership in science, mathematics and engineer-
17 ing, especially as advances are being made in such
18 areas as nanotechnology.

19 (7) A program of loan forgiveness designed to
20 attract students to careers in science, mathematics,
21 engineering and technology, including teaching ca-
22 reers, can help the United States maintain its tech-
23 nological leadership.

24 **SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM.**

25 (a) PROGRAM.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall carry
2 out a program of assuming the obligation to pay,
3 pursuant to the provisions of this Act, the interest
4 on a loan made, insured, or guaranteed under part
5 B or D of title IV of the Higher Education Act of
6 1965.

7 (2) ELIGIBILITY.—The Secretary may assume
8 interest payments under paragraph (1) only for a
9 borrower who—

10 (A) has submitted an application in com-
11 pliance with subsection (d);

12 (B) obtained one or more loans described
13 in paragraph (1) as an undergraduate student;

14 (C) is a new borrower (within the meaning
15 of section 103(7) of the Higher Education Act
16 of 1965 (20 U.S.C 1003(7)) on or after the
17 date of enactment of this Act;

18 (D) is a teacher of science, technology, en-
19 gineering or mathematics at an elementary or
20 secondary school, or is a mathematics, science
21 or engineering professional; and

22 (E) enters into an agreement with the Sec-
23 retary to complete 5 consecutive years of service
24 in a position described in subparagraph (D),
25 starting on the date of the agreement.

1 (3) PRIOR INTEREST LIMITATIONS.—The Sec-
2 retary shall not make any payments for interest
3 that—

4 (A) accrues prior to the beginning of the
5 repayment period on a loan in the case of a
6 loan made under section 428H or a Federal Di-
7 rect Unsubsidized Stafford Loan; or

8 (B) has accrued prior to the signing of an
9 agreement under paragraph (2)(E).

10 (4) INITIAL SELECTION.—In selecting partici-
11 pants for the program under this Act, the Sec-
12 retary—

13 (A) shall choose among eligible applicants
14 on the basis of—

15 (i) the national security, homeland se-
16 curity and economic security needs of the
17 United States, as determined by the Sec-
18 retary, in consultation with other Federal
19 agencies, including the Departments of
20 Labor, Defense, Homeland Security, Com-
21 merce, and Energy, the Central Intel-
22 ligence Agency and the National Science
23 Foundation; and

24 (ii) the academic record or job per-
25 formance of the applicant; and

1 (B) may choose among eligible applicants
2 on the basis of—

3 (i) the likelihood of the applicant to
4 complete the five-year service obligation;

5 (ii) the likelihood of the applicant to
6 remain in science, mathematics or engi-
7 neering after the completion of the service
8 requirement; or

9 (iii) other relevant criteria determined
10 by the Secretary.

11 (5) AVAILABILITY SUBJECT TO APPROPRIA-
12 TIONS.—Loan interest payments under this Act
13 shall be subject to the availability of appropriations.
14 If the amount appropriated for any fiscal year is not
15 sufficient to provide interest payments on behalf of
16 all qualified applicants, the Secretary shall give pri-
17 ority to those individuals on whose behalf interest
18 payments were made during the preceding fiscal
19 year.

20 (6) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary is author-
21 ized to prescribe such regulations as may be nec-
22 essary to carry out the provisions of this section.

23 (b) DURATION AND AMOUNT OF INTEREST PAY-
24 MENTS.—The period during which the Secretary shall pay
25 interest on behalf of a student borrower who is selected

1 under subsection (a) is the period that begins on the effec-
2 tive date of the agreement under subsection (a)(2)(E),
3 continues after successful completion of the service obliga-
4 tion, and ends on the earlier of—

5 (1) the completion of the repayment period of
6 the loan;

7 (2) payment by the Secretary of a total of
8 \$10,000 on behalf of the borrower;

9 (3) if the borrower ceases to fulfill the service
10 obligation under such agreement prior to the end of
11 the 5-year period, as soon as the borrower is deter-
12 mined to have ceased to fulfill such obligation in ac-
13 cordance with regulations of the Secretary; or

14 (4) 6 months after the end of any calendar year
15 in which the borrower's gross income equals or ex-
16 ceeds 4 times the national per capita disposable per-
17 sonal income (current dollars) for such calendar
18 year, as determined on the basis of the National In-
19 come and Product Accounts Tables of the Bureau of
20 Economic Analysis of the Department of Commerce,
21 as determined in accordance with regulations pre-
22 scribed by the Secretary.

23 (c) REPAYMENT TO ELIGIBLE LENDERS.—Subject to
24 the regulations prescribed by the Secretary by regulation
25 under subsection (a)(6), the Secretary shall pay to each

1 eligible lender or holder for each payment period the
2 amount of the interest that accrues on a loan of a student
3 borrower who is selected under subsection (a).

4 (d) APPLICATION FOR REPAYMENT.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—Each eligible individual de-
6 siring loan interest payment under this section shall
7 submit a complete and accurate application to the
8 Secretary at such time, in such manner, and con-
9 taining such information as the Secretary may re-
10 quire.

11 (2) FAILURE TO COMPLETE SERVICE AGREE-
12 MENT.—Such application shall contain an agreement
13 by the individual that, if the individual fails to com-
14 plete the 5 consecutive years of service required by
15 subsection (a)(2)(E), the individual agrees to repay
16 the Secretary the amount of any interest paid by the
17 Secretary on behalf of the individual.

18 (e) TREATMENT OF CONSOLIDATION LOANS.—A con-
19 solidation loan made under section 428C of the Higher
20 Education Act of 1965, or a Federal Direct Consolidation
21 Loan made under part D of title IV of such Act, may
22 be a qualified loan for the purpose of this section only
23 to the extent that such loan amount was used by a bor-
24 rower who otherwise meets the requirements of this sec-
25 tion to repay—

1 (1) a loan made under section 428 or 428H of
2 such Act; or

3 (2) a Federal Direct Stafford Loan, or a Fed-
4 eral Direct Unsubsidized Stafford Loan, made under
5 part D of title IV of such Act.

6 (f) PREVENTION OF DOUBLE BENEFITS.—No bor-
7 rower may, for the same service, receive a benefit under
8 both this section and—

9 (1) any loan forgiveness program under title IV
10 of the Higher Education Act of 1965; or

11 (2) subtitle D of title I of the National and
12 Community Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12571
13 et seq.).

14 **SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.**

15 As used in this Act—

16 (1) the term “Secretary” means the Secretary
17 of Education; and

18 (2) the term “mathematics, science, or engi-
19 neering professional” means a person who—

20 (A) holds a baccalaureate, masters, or doc-
21 toral degree (or a combination thereof) in
22 science, mathematics or engineering; and

23 (B) works in a field the Secretary deter-
24 mines is closely related to that degree, which

1 shall include working as a professor at a two-
2 or four-year institution of higher education.

3 **SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

4 There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out
5 this Act such sums as may be necessary for fiscal year
6 2006 and for each of the 5 succeeding fiscal years.

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