

110TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. 3635

To authorize a loan forgiveness program for students of institutions of higher education who volunteer to serve as mentors.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 26 (legislative day, SEPTEMBER 17), 2008

Mrs. CLINTON introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

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## A BILL

To authorize a loan forgiveness program for students of institutions of higher education who volunteer to serve as mentors.

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 “Supporting Mentors,  
5       Supporting Our Youth Act of 2008”.

6       **SEC. 2. LOAN FORGIVENESS FOR VOLUNTEER MENTORING.**

7       Part B of title IV of the Higher Education Act of  
8       1965 (20 U.S.C. 1071 et seq.) is amended by inserting  
9       after section 428L the following:

1 **“SEC. 428M. LOAN FORGIVENESS FOR VOLUNTEER MEN-**  
2 **TORING.**

3 “(a) PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—

4 “(1) LOAN FORGIVENESS AUTHORIZED.—The  
5 Secretary shall forgive, in accordance with this sec-  
6 tion, the student loan obligation of a borrower, in  
7 the amount specified in subsection (c), who—

8 “(A) commits to volunteering as a mentor,  
9 as described in subsection (b), for a period of  
10 not less than 1 year;

11 “(B) is enrolled in an institution of higher  
12 education during the period the borrower is vol-  
13 unteering as a mentor; and

14 “(C) is not in default on a loan for which  
15 the borrower seeks forgiveness.

16 “(2) METHOD OF LOAN FORGIVENESS.—To  
17 provide loan forgiveness under paragraph (1), the  
18 Secretary is authorized to carry out a program—

19 “(A) through the holder of the loan, to as-  
20 sume the obligation to repay a qualified loan  
21 amount for a loan made, insured, or guaranteed  
22 under this part (other than an excepted PLUS  
23 loan (as such term is defined in section  
24 493C(a))); and

1           “(B) to cancel a qualified loan amount for  
2           a loan made under part D (other than such an  
3           excepted PLUS loan).

4           “(3) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary is author-  
5           ized to issue such regulations as may be necessary  
6           to carry out the provisions of this section.

7           “(b) VOLUNTEER MENTORING.—For purposes of this  
8           section, an individual shall be treated as volunteering as  
9           a mentor if the individual—

10           “(1) commits to mentoring an at-risk child for  
11           a period of not less than 1 year; and

12           “(2) completes the minimum number of hours  
13           of volunteering as a mentor during such year, as de-  
14           termined by the Secretary by regulation.

15           “(c) QUALIFIED LOAN AMOUNT.—At the end of each  
16           year of volunteering as a mentor, as described in sub-  
17           section (b), on or after the date of enactment of the Sup-  
18           porting Mentors, Supporting Our Youth Act of 2008, not  
19           to exceed 5 years, the Secretary shall forgive, for every  
20           hour of mentoring completed, \$10 of the student loan obli-  
21           gation of a borrower that is outstanding after the comple-  
22           tion of each such year of volunteering as a mentor, not  
23           to exceed \$10,000 in the aggregate for any borrower.

1       “(d) PRIORITY.—The Secretary shall grant loan for-  
2 giveness under this section on a first-come, first-served  
3 basis, and subject to the availability of appropriations.

4       “(e) EVALUATION AND REPORT.—Not later than 1  
5 year after the date of enactment of the Supporting Men-  
6 tors, Supporting Our Youth Act of 2008, and annually  
7 thereafter, the Secretary shall evaluate the effectiveness  
8 of the program authorized under this section, and shall  
9 submit to Congress a report on such evaluation. Such re-  
10 port shall include—

11               “(1) the number and percentage of borrowers  
12 who participate in the program under this section  
13 for multiple academic years; and

14               “(2) the number of borrowers who continue to  
15 volunteer as mentors after graduation from an insti-  
16 tution of higher education.”.

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