

115TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 2976

To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to allow for the deferment of certain student loans during a period in which a borrower is receiving treatment for cancer.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 21, 2017

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN (for herself, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. PETERSON, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, and Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

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## A BILL

To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to allow for the deferment of certain student loans during a period in which a borrower is receiving treatment for cancer.

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 “Deferment for Active  
5       Cancer Treatment Act of 2017”.

1 **SEC. 2. STUDENT LOAN DEFERMENT FOR BORROWERS RE-**  
2 **CEIVING CANCER TREATMENT.**

3 (a) DIRECT LOANS.—Section 455(f) of the Higher  
4 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1087e(f)) is amended—

5 (1) by redesignating paragraphs (3) and (4) as  
6 paragraphs (4) and (5), respectively; and

7 (2) by inserting after paragraph (2) the fol-  
8 lowing:

9 “(3) DEFERMENT FOR BORROWERS RECEIVING  
10 CANCER TREATMENT.—

11 “(A) EFFECT ON PRINCIPAL AND INTER-  
12 EST.—A borrower of a loan made under this  
13 part who meets the requirements of subpara-  
14 graph (B) shall be eligible for a deferment, dur-  
15 ing which periodic installments of principal  
16 need not be paid, and interest shall not accrue.

17 “(B) ELIGIBILITY.—A borrower of a loan  
18 made under this part shall be eligible for a  
19 deferment during—

20 “(i) any period in which such bor-  
21 rower is receiving treatment for cancer;  
22 and

23 “(ii) the 6 months after such period.

24 “(C) APPLICABILITY.—This paragraph  
25 shall apply with respect to loans—

1 “(i) made on or after the date of the  
2 enactment of this paragraph; or

3 “(ii) in repayment on the date of the  
4 enactment of this paragraph.”.

5 (b) TERMS OF FEDERALLY INSURED STUDENT  
6 LOANS.—Section 427(a)(2)(C) of the Higher Education  
7 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1077(a)(2)(C)) is amended—

8 (1) in clause (ii), by striking “; or” and insert-  
9 ing a semicolon;

10 (2) in clause (iii), by inserting “or” after the  
11 semicolon; and

12 (3) by inserting after clause (iii) the following:

13 “(iv) in which the borrower is receiv-  
14 ing treatment for cancer and the 6 months  
15 after such period.”.

16 (c) FFEL PROGRAM.—Section 428(b)(1)(M) of the  
17 Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1078(b)(1)(M))  
18 is amended—

19 (1) in clause (iii), by striking “or (II); or” and  
20 inserting a “or (II);”;

21 (2) in clause (iv), by inserting “or” after the  
22 semicolon; and

23 (3) by adding at the end the following:

1 “(v) during which the borrower is re-  
2 ceiving treatment for cancer and the 6  
3 months after such period;”.

4 (d) FEDERAL PERKINS LOANS.—Section 464(c)(2)  
5 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.  
6 1087dd(c)(2)) is amended—

7 (1) in subparagraph (A)—

8 (A) in clause (iv), by striking “; or” and  
9 inserting a semicolon;

10 (B) in clause (v), by inserting “or” after  
11 the semicolon; and

12 (C) by inserting after clause (v) the fol-  
13 lowing:

14 “(vi) during which the borrower is receiv-  
15 ing treatment for cancer and the 6 months  
16 after such period;”.

17 (e) INTEREST ON UNSUBSUBSIDIZED STAFFORD  
18 LOANS.—Section 428H(e)(2) of the Higher Education Act  
19 of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1078–8(e)(2)) is amended—

20 (1) in subparagraph (A), by striking “Interest”  
21 and inserting, “Except as provided in subparagraph  
22 (C), interest”; and

23 (2) by adding at the end the following:

1           “(C) Interest shall not accrue on a loan de-  
2       ferred under section 428(b)(1)(M)(v) or  
3       427(a)(2)(C)(iv).”.

4       (f) APPLICABILITY.—The amendments made by this  
5 Act shall apply with respect to loans—

6           (1) made on or after the date of the enactment  
7       of this Act; or

8           (2) in repayment on the date of the enactment  
9       of this Act.

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