

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3130

To amend the National and Community Service Act of 1990 to promote active citizenship, including volunteerism, community dialogue, and service, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 29, 2017

Mr. HUFFMAN (for himself and Mr. DESAULNIER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, Energy and Commerce, Foreign Affairs, and Veterans' Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To amend the National and Community Service Act of 1990 to promote active citizenship, including volunteerism, community dialogue, and service, and for other purposes.

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 “International & Na-
5 tional Service Promotion to Ignite Renewed Engagement
6 Act” or the “INSPIRE Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. PURPOSES AND FINDINGS.**

2 (a) PURPOSES.—The purpose of this Act is to—

3 (1) promote active citizenship, including vol-
4 unteerism, community dialogue, and service;

5 (2) encourage and expand peaceful, positive,
6 and respectful patriotic acts both nationally and
7 internationally; and

8 (3) increase educational benefits for those that
9 serve so that more people will not only have the fi-
10 nancial ability to perform extensive community serv-
11 ice, but to increase the overall number of national
12 and international volunteers to 260,000, and provide
13 an additional 240,000 teachers and health profes-
14 sionals to underserved areas.

15 (b) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

16 (1) On April 21, 2009, the President signed the
17 Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act, to amend
18 and reauthorize the National and Community Serv-
19 ice Act of 1990 and Domestic Volunteer Service Act
20 of 1973.

21 (2) The Edward M. Kennedy Serve America
22 Act set bold benchmarks for expanding the number
23 and scope of service in the United States.

24 (3) The Edward M. Kennedy Serve America
25 Act required the Corporation for National and Com-
26 munity Service to develop a plan to increase the

1 number of approved national service positions from
2 88,000 in fiscal year 2010 to 250,000 in fiscal year
3 2017.

4 (4) The total national service positions in fiscal
5 year 2016 were 85,928, 149,072 less than the
6 235,000 authorized in the Edward M. Kennedy
7 Serve America Act.

8 (5) Congress should renew its commitment to
9 national service and appropriate funds necessary to
10 support the increased national service positions in
11 the Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act.

12 (6) The Peace Corps was founded in 1961 to
13 promoting world peace and friendship by improving
14 the lives of those they serve, helping others under-
15 stand American culture, and sharing their experi-
16 ence with Americans back home.

17 (7) Nearly 225,000 Peace Corps volunteers
18 have served in 141 countries over the lifetime of the
19 program.

20 (8) In 1985 Congress made it the policy of the
21 United States to maintain consistent with pro-
22 grammatic and fiscal considerations, a Peace Corps
23 volunteer level of at least 10,000 individuals.

24 (9) 10,000 individuals has not been reached
25 since 1968, although the objective has been reiter-

1 ated by three Presidents. In 2016 the Peace Corps
2 had about 7,213 volunteers serving in 65 nations.

3 (10) Congress must now renew its commitment
4 to world peace and appropriate funds necessary to
5 support 10,000 Peace Corps positions.

6 (11) Encouraging national and international
7 service fosters community dialogue, inclusive rela-
8 tionships, and positive actions.

9 (12) An individual's ability to serve should not
10 be compromised by economic circumstances. Con-
11 gress should expand educational benefits for service
12 and public service loan programs to ensure all that
13 wish to serve can do so.

14 (13) Congress should unleash a force of a half
15 million dedicated, patriotic individuals to teach in
16 our schools, increase health outcomes in underserved
17 areas, conserve our natural resources, and build up
18 our communities.

19 **SEC. 3. CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY**
20 **SERVICE.**

21 (a) RURAL COMMUNITIES.—Section 121 of the Na-
22 tional and Community Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C.
23 12571) is amended—

24 (1) in subsection (a)—

1 (A) by redesignating paragraphs (1) and
2 (2) as subparagraphs (A) and (B), respectively;
3 (B) by striking “Subject to” and inserting
4 the following:

5 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to”; and

6 (C) by adding at the end the following:

7 “(2) PRIORITY.—Not less than 10 percent of
8 the grant amounts awarded under subsection (a) for
9 a fiscal year, shall be awarded to carry out or sup-
10 port the national service programs described in sub-
11 section (a) that carry out or support projects or ac-
12 tivities in rural communities with not more than
13 20,000 individuals.”; and

14 (2) in subsection (e)(4)—

15 (A) by striking “The Corporation” and in-
16 serting the following:

17 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Corporation”;

18 and

19 (B) by adding at the end the following:

20 “(B) RURAL COMMUNITIES.—The Cor-
21 poration shall waive the requirements of para-
22 graph (1) with respect to a national service pro-
23 gram in any fiscal year that carries out or sup-
24 ports projects or activities in rural communities
25 with not more than 20,000 individuals.”.

1 (b) COORDINATED TRIBAL HEALTH PROFESSIONAL
2 RECRUITMENT.—Section 122(a)(2) of the National and
3 Community Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12572(a)(2))
4 is amended—

5 (1) in subparagraph (B)—

6 (A) by redesignating clauses (vii) through
7 (ix) as clauses (viii) through (x), respectively;
8 and

9 (B) by inserting after clause (vi) the fol-
10 lowing:

11 “(vii) providing services designed to
12 recruit and mentor young members of Na-
13 tive American and Alaska Native tribes
14 prior to enrollment in postsecondary edu-
15 cation to work in health professions, in-
16 cluding nursing and mental health profes-
17 sions;”; and

18 (2) in subparagraph (C)—

19 (A) by striking “or” at the end of clause
20 (v);

21 (B) by striking the period at the end of
22 clause (vi) and inserting “; or”; and

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

24 “(vii) any additional local indicator re-
25 lating to the recruitment and mentoring of

1 health of Native American and Alaska Na-
 2 tive tribal youth to work in health profes-
 3 sions, that is approved by the Corporation,
 4 in consultation with the Director of the In-
 5 dian Health Service.”.

6 (c) EDUCATIONAL AWARDS AND ADDITIONAL
 7 FUNDS.—The National and Community Service Act of
 8 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12603) is amended—

9 (1) in section 147(a) (42 U.S.C. 12603(a))—

10 (A) by striking “Except as provided” and
 11 inserting the following:

12 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided”;

13 (B) by striking “shall receive” and all that
 14 follows through the period at the end and in-
 15 serting the following: “shall be entitled to re-
 16 ceive a national service educational award equal
 17 to the amount described in paragraph (2).”;
 18 and

19 (C) by adding at the end the following:

20 “(2) AWARD AMOUNT.—A national service edu-
 21 cational award under paragraph (1) payable to an
 22 individual described in such paragraph shall be equal
 23 to the lesser of—

24 “(A) \$21,970.46; or

1 “(B) an amount equal to the in-State tui-
2 tion to complete a program at a public institu-
3 tion of higher education in the State in which
4 the individual is enrolled or accepted to be en-
5 rolled.

6 “(3) MANDATORY APPROPRIATIONS.—There
7 shall be available to the Corporation, from funds in
8 the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, such funds
9 as may be necessary to carry out this subsection for
10 fiscal year 2018 and each succeeding fiscal year.”;
11 and

12 (2) in section 501 (42 U.S.C. 12681), by add-
13 ing at the end the following:

14 “(c) ADDITIONAL AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIA-
15 TIONS.—

16 “(1) AUTHORIZATION.—There are authorized to
17 be appropriated such additional sums as are nec-
18 essary for the administration of this Act and the Do-
19 mestic Volunteer Service Act of 1973 (42 U.S.C.
20 4950 et seq.), including the programs and activities,
21 and functions of such Acts, and the goals described
22 in paragraph (2).

23 “(2) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of
24 Congress that amounts appropriated under para-
25 graph (1) should be sufficient to provide or facilitate

1 volunteer service opportunities and programs for not
2 fewer than 250,000 volunteers in full-time national
3 service per year before the end of the 5-year period
4 beginning on the date of enactment of the 21st Cen-
5 tury Community Service Expansion Act.”.

6 (d) NONCOMPETITIVE ELIGIBILITY.—Section 177 of
7 the National and Community Service Act of 1990 (20
8 U.S.C. 12637) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
9 lowing:

10 “(g) NONCOMPETITIVE ELIGIBILITY.—Under such
11 regulations as the Office of Personnel Management may
12 prescribe, an individual who has completed a satisfactory
13 full term of service of not less 1,700 hours under any pro-
14 gram under this Act shall be eligible for appointment in
15 the Federal competitive service in the same manner as
16 Peace Corps Volunteers as prescribed in Executive Order
17 No. 11103.”.

18 (e) EXCLUSION FROM GROSS INCOME.—

19 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 117 of the Internal
20 Revenue Code of 1986 (relating to qualified scholar-
21 ships) is amended by adding at the end the following
22 new subsection:

23 “(e) AMERICORPS EDUCATIONAL AWARDS.—Gross
24 income shall not include any national service educational
25 award described in subtitle D of title I of the National

1 and Community Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12601
2 et seq.).”.

3 (2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made
4 by this subsection shall apply to taxable years end-
5 ing after the date of the enactment of this Act.

6 **SEC. 4. PEACE CORPS.**

7 (a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Title I
8 of the Peace Corps Act is amended by adding at the end
9 the following new section:

10 “AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS

11 “SEC. 29. (a) There are authorized to be appro-
12 priated to carry out this Act—

13 “(1) \$432,777,778 for fiscal year 2018;

14 “(2) \$455,555,556 for fiscal year 2019;

15 “(3) \$501,111,112 for fiscal year 2020;

16 “(4) \$523,888,890 for fiscal year 2021;

17 “(5) \$546,666,000 for fiscal year 2022;

18 “(6) \$569,444,446 for fiscal year 2023;

19 “(7) \$592,222,224 for fiscal year 2024; and

20 “(8) such sums as may be necessary each subsequent
21 fiscal year.

22 “(b) Amounts authorized to be appropriated pursu-
23 ant to this section for a fiscal year are authorized to re-
24 main available for obligation through the end of the subse-
25 quent fiscal year.”.

1 (b) EDUCATION BENEFIT AND TAX EXEMPTION.—
 2 Section 5 of the Peace Corps Act (22 U.S.C. 2504) is
 3 amended—

4 (1) by inserting after subsection (c), the fol-
 5 lowing:

6 “(d) EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS.—

7 “(1) EDUCATIONAL AWARD.—

8 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Upon completion of a
 9 satisfactory full term of service as a volunteer
 10 under this Act, as determined under Executive
 11 Order No. 11103, an individual shall receive an
 12 educational award in an amount equal to the
 13 lesser of—

14 “(i) \$21,970.46; or

15 “(ii) an amount equal to the in-State
 16 tuition to complete a program at a public
 17 institution of higher education in the State
 18 in which the individual is enrolled or ac-
 19 cepted to be enrolled.

20 “(B) USE OF AWARD.—An educational
 21 award received under this subsection shall be
 22 used to repay Federal student loans or to pay
 23 for the cost of attendance at an institution of
 24 higher education.

25 “(C) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

1 “(2) PAYMENT OF INTEREST.—The President
2 shall provide, on behalf of an individual, for the pay-
3 ment of interest that accrues during a period for
4 which such individual has obtained forbearance in
5 the repayment of a Federal student loan, if the indi-
6 vidual has completed a satisfactory full term of serv-
7 ice as a volunteer under this Act, as determined
8 under Executive Order No. 11103.

9 “(3) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

10 “(A) The term ‘institution of higher edu-
11 cation’ has the meaning given the term in (sec-
12 tion 102 of the Higher Education Act of 1965
13 (20 U.S.C. 1002)).

14 “(B) The ‘Federal student loan’ has the
15 meaning given the term ‘qualified student loan’
16 under section 148(b)(7) of the National and
17 Community Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C.
18 12604(b)(7)).”; and

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

20 “(o) Under such regulations as the Office of Per-
21 sonnel Management may prescribe, an individual who has
22 completed a satisfactory full term of service as a Peace
23 Corps volunteer, as determined under Executive Order No.
24 11103, shall be eligible for appointment in the Federal
25 competitive service as described under such order.”.

1 (c) INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1986.—

2 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 117 of the Internal
3 Revenue Code of 1986, as amended by the preceding
4 provisions of this Act, is amended by adding at the
5 end the following new subsection:

6 “(f) PEACE CORPS LOAN REPAYMENTS.—Gross in-
7 come shall not include any loan repayment described in
8 section 5(d) of the Peace Corps Act.”.

9 (2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made
10 by this subsection shall apply to taxable years end-
11 ing after the date of the enactment of this Act.

12 **SEC. 5. PUBLIC SERVICE PROGRAMS.**

13 (a) STAFFORD LOAN FORGIVENESS.—Title IV of the
14 Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070 et seq.)
15 is amended—

16 (1) in section 428J(c) (20 U.S.C. 1078–
17 10(c))—

18 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “\$5,000”
19 and inserting “\$21,970.46”; and

20 (B) by striking paragraph (3); and

21 (2) in section 460(c) (20 U.S.C. 1087j(c))—

22 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “\$5,000”
23 and inserting “\$21,970.46”; and

24 (B) by striking paragraph (3).

1 (b) NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE CORPS LOAN RE-
2 PAYMENT PROGRAM.—

3 (1) PERIOD OF OBLIGATED SERVICE.—Section
4 338B(f)(1)(B)(iv) of the Public Health Service Act
5 (42 U.S.C. 254l–1(f)(1)(B)(iv)) is amended by strik-
6 ing “2 years” and inserting “5 years”.

7 (2) PAYMENTS FOR EACH YEAR OF OBLIGATED
8 SERVICE.—Section 338B(g)(2)(A) of the Public
9 Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254l–1(g)(2)(A)) is
10 amended by striking “up to \$50,000, plus, beginning
11 with fiscal year 2012, an amount determined by the
12 Secretary on an annual basis to reflect inflation”
13 and inserting “up to \$100,000, plus, beginning with
14 fiscal year 2020, an amount determined by the Sec-
15 retary on an annual basis to reflect inflation”.

16 (c) NURSING EDUCATION LOAN REPAYMENT PRO-
17 GRAM.—

18 (1) PERIOD OF OBLIGATED SERVICE.—

19 (A) IN GENERAL.—Section 846(a)(3) of
20 the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C.
21 297n(a)(3)) is amended by striking “not less
22 than two years” and inserting “not less than
23 four years”.

24 (B) TECHNICAL CORRECTION.—Section
25 846(a)(2) of the Public Health Service Act (42

1 U.S.C. 297n(a)(2)) is amended by striking
2 “subpart II” and inserting “this part”.

3 (2) PAYMENTS OF ALL PRINCIPAL AND INTER-
4 EST.—Section 846(b) of the Public Health Service
5 Act (42 U.S.C. 297n(b)) is amended—

6 (A) in paragraphs (1), (2), and (3), by
7 striking “30 percent” each place it appears and
8 inserting “25 percent”; and

9 (B) by adding at the end the following:

10 “(4) Upon completion by that individual of a
11 fourth year of such service, the Secretary shall pay
12 another 25 percent of the principal of, and the inter-
13 est on each such loan.”.

14 (3) TAX EXCLUSION FOR NURSING EDUCATION
15 LOAN REPAYMENTS.—

16 (A) IN GENERAL.—Part III of subchapter
17 B of chapter 1 of the Internal Revenue Code of
18 1986 is amended by inserting after section
19 139F the following new section:

20 **“SEC. 139G. NURSING EDUCATION LOAN REPAYMENTS.**

21 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Gross income shall not include
22 the value of any loan repayment (of principal or interest)
23 made by the Secretary of Health and Human Services
24 under section 846 of the Public Health Service Act.

1 “(b) DENIAL OF DOUBLE BENEFIT.—Notwith-
 2 standing any other provision of this subtitle, no deduction
 3 or credit shall be allowed for, or by reason of, any expendi-
 4 ture to the extent of the amount excluded under sub-
 5 section (a) for any subsidy, rebate or other amount which
 6 was provided with respect to such expenditure. The ad-
 7 justed basis of any property shall be reduced by the
 8 amount excluded under subsection (a) which was provided
 9 with respect to such property.”.

10 (B) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section
 11 1016(a) of such Code is amended by striking
 12 “and” at the end of paragraph (36), by striking
 13 the period at the end of paragraph (37) and in-
 14 serting “, and”, and by adding at the end the
 15 following new paragraph:

16 “(38) to the extent provided in section
 17 139G(b).”.

18 (C) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of
 19 sections for part III of subchapter B of chapter
 20 1 of such Code is amended by inserting after
 21 the item relating to section 139F the following
 22 new item:

“Sec. 139G. Nursing education loan repayments.”.

23 (D) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments
 24 made by this paragraph shall apply to payments

1 made after the date of the enactment of this
2 Act, in taxable years ending after such date.

3 (d) PUBLIC HEALTH WORKFORCE LOAN REPAY-
4 MENT PROGRAM.—Section 776(g) of the Public Health
5 Service Act (42 U.S.C. 295f–1(g)) is amended to read as
6 follows:

7 “(g) APPROPRIATIONS.—To carry out this section,
8 there are authorized to be appropriated, and are appro-
9 priated, out of any monies in the Treasury not otherwise
10 appropriated, \$195,000,000 for fiscal year 2018 and
11 \$100,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2019 through
12 2022.”.

13 **SEC. 6. INCREASE OF CERTAIN EDUCATION DEBT REPAY-**
14 **MENTS BY DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AF-**
15 **FAIRS.**

16 (a) EDUCATION DEBT REDUCTION PROGRAM.—Sec-
17 tion 7683(d)(1) of title 38, United States Code, is amend-
18 ed—

19 (1) by striking “\$120,000” and inserting
20 “\$250,000”; and

21 (2) by striking “\$24,000” and inserting
22 “\$50,000”.

23 (b) EXCLUSION FROM GROSS INCOME.—

24 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 117 of the Internal
25 Revenue Code of 1986, as amended by the preceding

1 provisions of this Act, is amended by adding at the
 2 end the following new subsection:

3 “(g) VA EDUCATION DEBT REDUCTION PROGRAM.—
 4 Gross income shall not include any loan repayments under
 5 subchapter VII of chapter 76 of title 38, United States
 6 Code.”.

7 (2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made
 8 by paragraph (1) shall apply to payments made after
 9 the date of the enactment of this Act, in taxable
 10 years ending after such date.

11 **SEC. 7. EXEMPTION OF HEALTH PROFESSIONAL SHORTAGE**
 12 **AREAS FROM MEDICARE GRADUATE MED-**
 13 **ICAL EDUCATION CAPS.**

14 (a) DIRECT GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION.—Sec-
 15 tion 1886(h)(4)(F) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
 16 1395ww(h)(4)(F)) is amended—

17 (1) in clause (i), by inserting “clause (iii) and”
 18 after “subject to”; and

19 (2) by adding at the end the following new
 20 clause:

21 “(iii) INCREASE ALLOWED FOR
 22 HEALTH PROFESSIONAL SHORTAGE
 23 AREAS.—For cost reporting periods begin-
 24 ning on or after January 1, 2018, clause
 25 (i) shall not apply in the case of a hospital

1 or nonprovider setting located in a health
2 professional shortage area (as defined in
3 section 332 of the Public Health Service
4 Act).”.

5 (b) INDIRECT MEDICAL EDUCATION.—Section
6 1886(d)(5)(B) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
7 1395ww(d)(5)(B)) is amended—

8 (1) by redesignating the second clause (x), as
9 added by section 5505(b) of the Patient Protection
10 and Affordable Care Act (Public Law 111–148), as
11 clause (xi) and moving such clause 4 ems to the left,
12 and realigning the left margins of subclauses (II)
13 and (III) of such clause and items (aa), (bb), (cc),
14 and (dd) of subclause (II) of such clause appro-
15 priately; and

16 (2) by adding at the end the following new
17 clause:

18 “(xii) For discharges occurring on or
19 after January 1, 2018, in determining the
20 hospital’s number of full-time equivalent
21 residents for purposes of this subpara-
22 graph, clause (iii) of subsection (h)(4)(F)
23 shall apply to clause (v) in the same man-
24 ner and for the same period as such clause

1 (iii) applies to clause (i) of such sub-
2 section.”.

○