

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6502

To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide for deferral of loan repayment for graduates during the period of the coronavirus.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 14, 2020

Mr. HARDER of California (for himself, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Ms. STEFANIK, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. COX of California, Ms. SLOTKIN, Mrs. HAYES, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Ms. PORTER, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. LEVIN of California, and Mr. ROUDA) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor

A BILL

To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide for deferral of loan repayment for graduates during the period of the coronavirus.

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 “COVID-19 Graduate
5 Relief Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. DEFERRAL OF LOAN REPAYMENT FOR GRADUATES**
2 **DURING THE PERIOD OF THE CORONAVIRUS.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Part G of title IV of the Higher
4 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1088 et seq.) is amend-
5 ed by adding at the end the following:

6 **“SEC. 493E. DEFERRAL OF LOAN REPAYMENT FOR GRAD-**
7 **UATES DURING THE PERIOD OF THE**
8 **CORONAVIRUS.**

9 “(a) DEFERRAL OF LOAN REPAYMENT.—In addition
10 to any deferral of repayment of a loan made under this
11 title pursuant to this title, a borrower of a loan under this
12 title who is an eligible individual as described in subsection
13 (b), shall be eligible for a deferment of such loan during
14 the period, not to exceed 3 years, following the date of
15 enactment of the COVID-19 Graduate Relief Act.

16 “(b) ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUAL.—

17 “(1) IN GENERAL.—A borrower of a loan under
18 this title is an eligible individual if the individual
19 graduates from the eligible institution for which the
20 individual borrowed the loan to enroll during the pe-
21 riod beginning on January 1, 2020, and ending on
22 December 31, 2020.

23 “(2) EXTENSION.—The Secretary may extend
24 the period described in paragraph (1) for additional
25 1-year periods, but not later than through December
26 31, 2022, if the Secretary determines, in writing, in

1 consultation with the Secretary of Labor, the Sec-
2 retary of Treasury, and the Secretary of Health and
3 Human Services, that the anticipated economic im-
4 pact of the coronavirus on graduates of eligible insti-
5 tutions over the relevant 1-year extension period ne-
6 cessitates such extension.

7 “(3) CONSIDERATIONS.—In making a deter-
8 mination regarding whether the anticipated eco-
9 nomic impact of the coronavirus on graduates of eli-
10 gible institutions necessitates an extension pursuant
11 to paragraph (2), the Secretary shall consider—

12 “(A) whether a national emergency with
13 respect to the coronavirus is in effect;

14 “(B) relevant economic indicators, includ-
15 ing recent unemployment statistics from the
16 Bureau of Labor Statistics; and

17 “(C) relevant data and projections related
18 to the transmission or seasonal recurrence of
19 the coronavirus and any existing or anticipated
20 measures by Federal, State, or local govern-
21 ments to prevent, prepare for, and respond to
22 the coronavirus.

23 “(c) CORONAVIRUS.—The term ‘coronavirus’ means
24 coronavirus as defined in section 506 of the Coronavirus

1 Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations
2 Act, 2020 (Public Law 116–123).”.

3 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by
4 subsection (a) shall take effect from the period beginning
5 on the date of enactment of this Act until the date that
6 is 3 years after such date of enactment.

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