

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 8076

To prohibit the mass cancellation of student loans.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 15, 2022

Mr. DESJARLAIS (for himself, Mrs. HINSON, Mr. ROSE, and Mr. CLOUD) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, 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 prohibit the mass cancellation of student loans.

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 “Student Loan Account-
5 ability Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

8 (1) Statutory authority has not been provided
9 to the executive branch of the Federal Government
10 to cancel student loans on a mass scale.

1 (2) It is unfair for taxpayers who paid student
2 loans or did not attend college to pay for those who
3 chose to take student loans.

4 **SEC. 3. PROHIBITION ON MASS CANCELLATION OF STU-**
5 **DENT LOANS.**

6 (a) PROHIBITION.—

7 (1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other
8 provision of law, the Secretary of Education, the
9 Secretary of the Treasury, or the Attorney General
10 shall not take any action to cancel or forgive the
11 outstanding balances, or portion of balances, of cov-
12 ered loans, except as provided in paragraph (2).

13 (2) EXEMPTION.—The prohibition described in
14 paragraph (1) shall not apply to targeted Federal
15 student loan forgiveness, cancellation, or repayment
16 programs carried out under the Higher Education
17 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001 et seq.), under final
18 regulations as in effect on March 12, 2020.

19 (b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the term “covered
20 loan” means—

21 (1) a loan made, insured, or guaranteed under
22 part B, D, or E of title IV of the Higher Education
23 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1071 et seq.; 1087a et seq.;
24 1087aa et seq.) before, on, or after the date of en-
25 actment of this Act; or

1 (2) a loan under the Health Education Assist-
2 ance Loan Program under title VII of the Public
3 Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 292 et seq.) made be-
4 fore, on, or after the date of enactment of this Act.

5 (c) LIMITATION.—The Secretary of Education, the
6 Secretary of the Treasury, or the Attorney General may
7 not implement, or publish in any form, any regulation, or
8 take any action, that modifies, alters, amends, cancels,
9 discharges, forgives, or defers the repayment of any stu-
10 dent debt not expressly permitted within statute or regula-
11 tion as in effect on March 12, 2020, regarding covered
12 loans, except to the extent that such regulation or action
13 reflects the clear and unequivocal intent of Congress in
14 legislation.

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