

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2519

To require the Secretary of Education to revise regulations for student loan deferments with respect to borrowers who are medical or dental residents.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 23, 2005

Mr. ANDREWS introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

A BILL

To require the Secretary of Education to revise regulations for student loan deferments with respect to borrowers who are medical or dental residents.

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 “Healthcare Student
5 Financial Assistance Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. REGULATION REVISION REQUIRED.**

7 (a) **ACTION REQUIRED.**—Within 90 days after the
8 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Education
9 shall revise the Department of Education regulations
10 under the Federal Family Education Loan, Federal Direct

1 Student Loan, and Perkins Loan programs with respect
2 to deferment of student loan repayment (34 CFR 674.34,
3 682.210, 685.204) to comply with the requirements of
4 subsection (b).

5 (b) REQUIREMENTS.—The student loan repayment
6 deferment regulations shall be revised to provide with re-
7 spect to borrowers who are in post-graduate medical and
8 dental residency and fellowship programs the following:

9 (1) If a borrower entering such a residency or
10 fellowship program qualifies for deferment under the
11 economic hardship provision, the deferment shall be
12 available for up to 5 years, and the borrower shall
13 not be required to apply annually.

14 (2) If the borrower is in such a residency or fel-
15 lowship program and both is working full-time and
16 has a Federal education debt burden that equals or
17 exceeds 20 percent of the borrower's adjusted gross
18 income, the borrower shall be required, as a condi-
19 tion of the hardship deferment, to demonstrate that
20 the difference between the borrower's adjusted gross
21 income minus the Federal education debt burden is
22 less than 230 percent (not 220 percent) of the great-
23 er of—

24 (A) the annual earnings of an individual
25 earning minimum wage; or

1 (B) the official poverty line applicable to a
2 family of two.

3 (3) If a borrower is entering a dental residency
4 or fellowship program in an institution that is, or is
5 affiliated with, an eligible institution for programs
6 under title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965,
7 the in-school deferment shall be available for the du-
8 ration of the residency or fellowship program, but
9 may not exceed 5 years.

10 **SEC. 3. CLARIFICATION OF STUDENT DEFERMENT.**

11 Clause (i) of section 428(b)(1)(M) of the Higher
12 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1078(b)(1)(M)(i)) is
13 amended by inserting after “residency program” the fol-
14 lowing: “, and except that the preceding limitation shall
15 not apply to a dental residency program”.

○