

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 926

To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to reduce the principal amount on loans made to STEM majors.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 7, 2017

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

A BILL

To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to reduce the principal amount on loans made to STEM majors.

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 “American Science
5 Principal and Interest Reduction and Employment Act”
6 or the “ASPIRE Act”.

7 **SEC. 2. LOAN CANCELLATION FOR STEM MAJORS.**

8 Part D of title IV of the Higher Education Act of
9 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1087a et seq.) is amended by adding at
10 the end the following:

1 **“SEC. 460A. LOAN CANCELLATION FOR STEM MAJORS.**

2 “(a) PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—

3 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall carry
4 out a program of canceling the obligation to repay
5 25 percent of the outstanding balance of principal
6 due, in accordance with paragraph (2), on any eligi-
7 ble Federal Direct Loan made to a borrower who re-
8 ceives such loan—

9 “(A) for attendance at an undergraduate
10 STEM program; or

11 “(B) on behalf of a dependent student for
12 such student to attend an undergraduate
13 STEM program.

14 “(2) LOAN CANCELLATION AMOUNT.—As soon
15 as practicable after the borrower or the borrower’s
16 dependent student graduates with an undergraduate
17 degree or certificate from the program described in
18 paragraph (1), the Secretary shall cancel the obliga-
19 tion to repay 25 percent of the balance of principal
20 due as of the time of such cancellation, on the eligi-
21 ble Federal Direct Loans made to the borrower.

22 “(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

23 “(1) ELIGIBLE FEDERAL DIRECT LOAN.—The
24 term ‘eligible Federal Direct Loan’ means a Federal
25 Direct Stafford Loan, Federal Direct PLUS Loan,

1 or Federal Direct Unsubsidized Stafford Loan, or a
2 Federal Direct Consolidation Loan.

3 “(2) UNDERGRADUATE STEM PROGRAM OF
4 STUDY.—The term ‘undergraduate STEM program
5 of study’ means a program of study related to
6 science, technology, engineering, or mathematics, at
7 an institution of higher education that leads to an
8 undergraduate degree or certificate.

9 “(c) CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall
10 be construed to authorize any refunding of any canceled
11 loan.”.

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