

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2919

To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide that an individual may remain eligible to participate in the teacher loan forgiveness program under title IV of such Act if the individual's period of consecutive years of employment as a full-time teacher is interrupted because the individual is the spouse of a member of the Armed Forces who is relocated during the school year pursuant to military orders for a permanent change of duty station, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 15, 2017

Mr. CHABOT (for himself, Ms. STEFANIK, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. TAKANO, and Mr. SWALWELL of California) 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 provide that an individual may remain eligible to participate in the teacher loan forgiveness program under title IV of such Act if the individual's period of consecutive years of employment as a full-time teacher is interrupted because the individual is the spouse of a member of the Armed Forces who is relocated during the school year pursuant to military orders for a permanent change of duty station, 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 “Preserving Teacher
 5 Loan Forgiveness for Military Spouses Act of 2017”.

6 **SEC. 2. CONTINUING ELIGIBILITY TO PARTICIPATE IN STU-**
 7 **DENT LOAN FORGIVENESS OR LOAN CAN-**
 8 **CELLATION PROGRAM FOR TEACHERS**
 9 **WHOSE PERIOD OF CONSECUTIVE EMPLOY-**
 10 **MENT IS INTERRUPTED BECAUSE OF MILI-**
 11 **TARY ORDERS REQUIRING SPOUSE TO RELO-**
 12 **CATE TO NEW RESIDENCE.**

13 (a) CONTINUING ELIGIBILITY.—

14 (1) PART B LOANS.—Section 428J(g) of the
 15 Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1078–
 16 10(g)) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
 17 lowing new paragraph:

18 “(4) CONTINUING ELIGIBILITY FOR CERTAIN
 19 MILITARY SPOUSES.—

20 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding para-
 21 graph (1) of subsection (b), an individual who
 22 is employed as a full-time teacher for 5 com-
 23 plete years which are not consecutive years may
 24 be eligible for loan forgiveness pursuant to such
 25 subsection if the individual was a qualified mili-

1 tary spouse with respect to any year during
2 which the individual was not employed as a full-
3 time teacher.

4 “(B) QUALIFIED MILITARY SPOUSE DE-
5 FINED.—In this paragraph, the term ‘qualified
6 military spouse’ means, with respect to a year,
7 an individual who—

8 “(i) during the previous year, served
9 as a teacher in a school or location meeting
10 the requirements of subparagraph (A) of
11 subsection (b)(1) and met the require-
12 ments of subparagraph (B) of subsection
13 (b)(1);

14 “(ii) is the spouse of a member of the
15 Armed Forces who is relocated during the
16 year pursuant to military orders for a per-
17 manent change of duty station;

18 “(iii) did not serve as a teacher in a
19 school or location meeting the require-
20 ments of subparagraph (A) of subsection
21 (b)(1) during the year or any portion of
22 the year because the individual accom-
23 panied the spouse to a new residence as a
24 result of such military orders; and

1 “(iv) during the following year, re-
2 sumed service as a teacher in a school or
3 location meeting the requirements of sub-
4 paragraph (A) of subsection (b)(1) and
5 met the requirements of subparagraph (B)
6 of subsection (b)(1).

7 “(C) REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—Not later
8 than 90 days after the end of the second aca-
9 demic year during which this paragraph is in
10 effect, and every 2 years thereafter, the Sec-
11 retary shall submit to Congress a report de-
12 scribing the number of individuals who, as a re-
13 sult of this paragraph, remained eligible for
14 loan forgiveness pursuant to subsection (b) dur-
15 ing the 2 most recent academic years.”.

16 (2) PART D LOANS.—Section 460(g) of the
17 Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1087j(g))
18 is amended by adding at the end the following new
19 paragraph:

20 “(4) CONTINUING ELIGIBILITY FOR CERTAIN
21 MILITARY SPOUSES.—

22 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding para-
23 graph (1) of subsection (b), an individual who
24 is employed as a full-time teacher for 5 com-
25 plete years which are not consecutive years may

1 be eligible for loan cancellation pursuant to
2 such subsection if the individual was a qualified
3 military spouse with respect to any year during
4 which the individual was not employed as a full-
5 time teacher.

6 “(B) QUALIFIED MILITARY SPOUSE DE-
7 FINED.—In this paragraph, the term ‘qualified
8 military spouse’ means, with respect to a year,
9 an individual who—

10 “(i) during the previous year, served
11 as a teacher in a school or location meeting
12 the requirements of subparagraph (A) of
13 subsection (b)(1) and met the require-
14 ments of subparagraph (B) of subsection
15 (b)(1);

16 “(ii) is the spouse of a member of the
17 Armed Forces who is relocated during the
18 year pursuant to military orders for a per-
19 manent change of duty station;

20 “(iii) did not serve as a teacher in a
21 school or location meeting the require-
22 ments of subparagraph (A) of subsection
23 (b)(1) during the year or any portion of
24 the year because the individual accom-

1 panied the spouse to a new residence as a
2 result of such military orders; and

3 “(iv) during the following year, re-
4 sumed service as a teacher in a school or
5 location meeting the requirements of sub-
6 paragraph (A) of subsection (b)(1) and
7 met the requirements of subparagraph (B)
8 of subsection (b)(1).

9 “(C) REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—Not later
10 than 90 days after the end of the second aca-
11 demic year during which this paragraph is in
12 effect, and every 2 years thereafter, the Sec-
13 retary shall submit to Congress a report de-
14 scribing the number of individuals who, as a re-
15 sult of this paragraph, remained eligible for
16 loan cancellation pursuant to subsection (b)
17 during the 2 most recent academic years.”.

18 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
19 subsection (a) shall apply with respect to individuals who
20 first become employed as full-time teachers on or after the
21 date of the enactment of this Act.

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