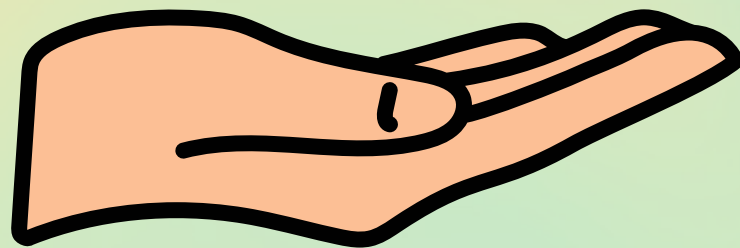
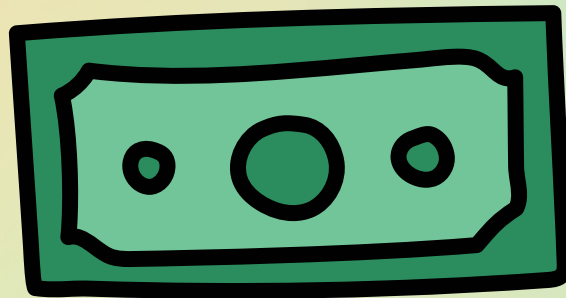


MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS WORKFORCE SHORTAGE LOAN REPAYMENT ACT



What is it?
(S.1578/H.R.3150)

by: Justine Ramos (AOTA/MAOT Rep)

THE BILL

In the 117th Congress, Sens. Tina Smith (D-MN) and Lisa Murkowski (R-AK), and Reps. Grace Napolitano (D-CA) and John Katko (R-NY) re-introduced the Mental Health Professionals Workforce Shortage Loan Repayment Act (S.1578/H.R.3150)

“To amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize a loan repayment program for mental health professionals to relieve workforce shortages, and for other purposes.”

(Yes! Including Occupational Therapy)

IN A NUTSHELL

Practitioners will agree to complete a period of service in a mental health profession where there is a shortage in exchange for a loan forgiveness plan on an eligible loan



FAQS

How long do I have to work in mental health?

“6 years full-time employment, with no more than one year passing between any two years of covered employment, as a mental health professional in the United States in a mental health professional shortage area.”

Up to how much will the gov. forgive?

up to \$250,000

HOW FORGIVENESS WORKS

For each year of service, the gov. shall make a payment of...

1. $\frac{1}{6}$ of the outstanding principal of and interest on each eligible loan on the date of agreement to service
2. the remainder of such principal and interest on the final (6th) year of service

FAQS

Which loans are eligible?

- Any loan for education in mental health or a related field leading to a master's degree, leading to a doctoral degree, or consisting of post-doctoral study.
- Any Federal Direct Stafford Loan, Federal Direct PLUS Loan, or Federal Direct Unsubsidized Stafford Loan, or Federal Direct Consolidation Loan (as such terms are used in section 455 of the Higher Education Act of 1965).
- Any Federal Perkins Loan under part E of title I of the Higher Education Act of 1965.
- Any other Federal loan as determined appropriate by the Secretary.

FAQS

What if I don't complete 6 years of service?

"The failure by an individual to complete the full period of service...shall not constitute a breach of the agreement, so long as the individual completed in good faith the years of service for which payments were made to the individual under this section."

WHAT CAN I DO?

**Write a letter to your representatives/
call your congress member!**

<https://tinyurl.com/byebyeloans>