

116TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 6502

To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide for deferral of loan repayment for graduates during the period of the coronavirus.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 14, 2020

Mr. HARDER of California (for himself, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Ms. STEFANIK, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. COX of California, Ms. SLOTKIN, Mrs. HAYES, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Ms. PORTER, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. LEVIN of California, and Mr. ROUDA) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor

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## A BILL

To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide for deferral of loan repayment for graduates during the period of the coronavirus.

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 “COVID-19 Graduate  
5 Relief Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. DEFERRAL OF LOAN REPAYMENT FOR GRADUATES**  
2 **DURING THE PERIOD OF THE CORONAVIRUS.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Part G of title IV of the Higher  
4 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1088 et seq.) is amend-  
5 ed by adding at the end the following:

6 **“SEC. 493E. DEFERRAL OF LOAN REPAYMENT FOR GRAD-**  
7 **UATES DURING THE PERIOD OF THE**  
8 **CORONAVIRUS.**

9 “(a) DEFERRAL OF LOAN REPAYMENT.—In addition  
10 to any deferral of repayment of a loan made under this  
11 title pursuant to this title, a borrower of a loan under this  
12 title who is an eligible individual as described in subsection  
13 (b), shall be eligible for a deferment of such loan during  
14 the period, not to exceed 3 years, following the date of  
15 enactment of the COVID-19 Graduate Relief Act.

16 “(b) ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUAL.—

17 “(1) IN GENERAL.—A borrower of a loan under  
18 this title is an eligible individual if the individual  
19 graduates from the eligible institution for which the  
20 individual borrowed the loan to enroll during the pe-  
21 riod beginning on January 1, 2020, and ending on  
22 December 31, 2020.

23 “(2) EXTENSION.—The Secretary may extend  
24 the period described in paragraph (1) for additional  
25 1-year periods, but not later than through December  
26 31, 2022, if the Secretary determines, in writing, in

1 consultation with the Secretary of Labor, the Sec-  
2 retary of Treasury, and the Secretary of Health and  
3 Human Services, that the anticipated economic im-  
4 pact of the coronavirus on graduates of eligible insti-  
5 tutions over the relevant 1-year extension period ne-  
6 cessitates such extension.

7 “(3) CONSIDERATIONS.—In making a deter-  
8 mination regarding whether the anticipated eco-  
9 nomic impact of the coronavirus on graduates of eli-  
10 gible institutions necessitates an extension pursuant  
11 to paragraph (2), the Secretary shall consider—

12 “(A) whether a national emergency with  
13 respect to the coronavirus is in effect;

14 “(B) relevant economic indicators, includ-  
15 ing recent unemployment statistics from the  
16 Bureau of Labor Statistics; and

17 “(C) relevant data and projections related  
18 to the transmission or seasonal recurrence of  
19 the coronavirus and any existing or anticipated  
20 measures by Federal, State, or local govern-  
21 ments to prevent, prepare for, and respond to  
22 the coronavirus.

23 “(c) CORONAVIRUS.—The term ‘coronavirus’ means  
24 coronavirus as defined in section 506 of the Coronavirus

1 Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations  
2 Act, 2020 (Public Law 116–123).”.

3 (b) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendment made by  
4 subsection (a) shall take effect from the period beginning  
5 on the date of enactment of this Act until the date that  
6 is 3 years after such date of enactment.

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