

118TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 1972

To increase college transparency, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 14, 2023

Mr. CASSIDY (for himself, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, and Mr. TUBERVILLE) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

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## A BILL

To increase college transparency, 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 “Lowering Education  
5 Costs and Debt Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

7 The table of contents of this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title.

Sec. 2. Table of contents.

### TITLE I—COLLEGE TRANSPARENCY

Sec. 101. Postsecondary student data system.

Sec. 102. Repeal of prohibition on student data system.

Sec. 103. Institutional requirements.

Sec. 104. Transition provisions.

TITLE II—UNDERSTANDING THE TRUE COST OF COLLEGE

Sec. 201. Institution Financial Aid Offer Form.

Sec. 202. Mandatory form.

TITLE III—INFORMED STUDENT BORROWING

Sec. 301. Counseling and financial aid disclosures.

Sec. 302. Annual requirement to manually enter loan amount.

Sec. 303. Work study.

TITLE IV—STREAMLINING ACCOUNTABILITY AND VALUE IN  
EDUCATION FOR STUDENTS

Sec. 401. Loan repayment simplification and income-driven repayment reform.

Sec. 402. Taxpayer and consumer protection on student loans.

Sec. 403. Phase out of income-based repayment.

TITLE V—GRADUATE OPPORTUNITY AND AFFORDABLE LOANS

Sec. 501. Loan limits.

1                                   **TITLE I—COLLEGE**  
2                                   **TRANSPARENCY**  
3   **SEC. 101. POSTSECONDARY STUDENT DATA SYSTEM.**

4           Section 132 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20  
5 U.S.C. 1015a) is amended—

6                   (1) by redesignating subsection (l) as subsection  
7                   (m); and

8                   (2) by inserting after subsection (k) the fol-  
9                   lowing:

10           “(l) POSTSECONDARY STUDENT DATA SYSTEM.—

11                   “(1) IN GENERAL.—

12                           “(A) ESTABLISHMENT OF SYSTEM.—Not  
13                   later than 4 years after the date of enactment  
14                   of the Lowering Education Costs and Debt Act,  
15                   the Commissioner of the National Center for

1 Education Statistics (referred to in this sub-  
2 section as the ‘Commissioner’) shall develop and  
3 maintain a secure and privacy-protected post-  
4 secondary student-level data system in order  
5 to—

6 “(i) accurately evaluate student en-  
7 rollment patterns, progression, completion,  
8 and postcollegiate outcomes, and higher  
9 education costs and financial aid;

10 “(ii) assist with transparency, institu-  
11 tional improvement, and analysis of Fed-  
12 eral aid programs;

13 “(iii) provide accurate, complete, and  
14 customizable information for students and  
15 families making decisions about postsec-  
16 ondary education; and

17 “(iv) reduce the reporting burden on  
18 institutions of higher education, in accord-  
19 ance with section 104 of the Lowering  
20 Education Costs and Debt Act.

21 “(B) AVOIDING DUPLICATED REPORT-  
22 ING.—Notwithstanding any other provision of  
23 this section, to the extent that another provi-  
24 sion of this section requires the same reporting  
25 or collection of data that is required under this

1 subsection, an institution of higher education,  
2 or the Secretary or Commissioner, shall use the  
3 reporting or data required for the postsec-  
4 ondary student data system under this sub-  
5 section to satisfy both requirements.

6 “(C) DEVELOPMENT PROCESS.—In devel-  
7 oping the postsecondary student data system  
8 described in this subsection, the Commissioner  
9 shall—

10 “(i) focus on the needs of—

11 “(I) users of the data system;

12 and

13 “(II) entities, including institu-  
14 tions of higher education, reporting to  
15 the data system;

16 “(ii) take into consideration, to the  
17 extent practicable—

18 “(I) the guidelines outlined in the  
19 U.S. Web Design Standards main-  
20 tained by the General Services Admin-  
21 istration and the Digital Services  
22 Playbook and TechFAR Handbook for  
23 Procuring Digital Services Using  
24 Agile Processes of the U.S. Digital  
25 Service; and

1                   “(II) the relevant successor docu-  
2                   ments or recommendations of such  
3                   guidelines;

4                   “(iii) use modern, relevant privacy-  
5                   and security-enhancing technology, and en-  
6                   hance and update the data system as nec-  
7                   essary to carry out the purpose of this sub-  
8                   section;

9                   “(iv) ensure data privacy and security  
10                  is consistent with any relevant Federal law  
11                  relating to privacy or data security, includ-  
12                  ing—

13                   “(I) the requirements of sub-  
14                   chapter II of chapter 35 of title 44,  
15                   United States Code, specifying secu-  
16                   rity categorization under the Federal  
17                   Information Processing Standards or  
18                   any relevant successor of such stand-  
19                   ards;

20                   “(II) security requirements that  
21                   are consistent with the Federal agency  
22                   responsibilities in section 3554 of title  
23                   44, United States Code, or any rel-  
24                   evant successor of such responsibil-  
25                   ities; and

1                   “(III) security requirements,  
2                   guidelines, and controls consistent  
3                   with cybersecurity standards and best  
4                   practices developed by the National  
5                   Institute of Standards and Tech-  
6                   nology, including frameworks, con-  
7                   sistent with section 2(c) of the Na-  
8                   tional Institute of Standards and  
9                   Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 272(c)), or  
10                  any relevant successor of such frame-  
11                  works;

12                  “(v) follow Federal data minimization  
13                  practices to ensure only the minimum  
14                  amount of data is collected to meet the  
15                  system’s goals, in accordance with Federal  
16                  data minimization standards and guide-  
17                  lines developed by the National Institute of  
18                  Standards and Technology; and

19                  “(vi) provide notice to students out-  
20                  lining the data included in the system and  
21                  how the data are used.

22                  “(2) DATA ELEMENTS.—

23                  “(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 4 years  
24                  after the date of enactment of the Lowering  
25                  Education Costs and Debt Act, the Commis-

1 sioner, in consultation with the Postsecondary  
 2 Student Data System Advisory Committee es-  
 3 tablished under subparagraph (B), shall deter-  
 4 mine—

5 “(i) the data elements to be included  
 6 in the postsecondary student data system,  
 7 in accordance with subparagraphs (C) and  
 8 (D); and

9 “(ii) how to include the data elements  
 10 required under subparagraph (C), and any  
 11 additional data elements selected under  
 12 subparagraph (D), in the postsecondary  
 13 student data system.

14 “(B) POSTSECONDARY STUDENT DATA  
 15 SYSTEM ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—

16 “(i) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later  
 17 than 2 years after the date of enactment  
 18 of the Lowering Education Costs and Debt  
 19 Act, the Commissioner shall establish a  
 20 Postsecondary Student Data System Advi-  
 21 sory Committee (referred to in this sub-  
 22 section as the ‘Advisory Committee’),  
 23 whose members shall include—

24 “(I) the Chief Privacy Officer of  
 25 the Department or an official of the

1 Department delegated the duties of  
2 overseeing data privacy at the Depart-  
3 ment;

4 “(II) the Chief Security Officer  
5 of the Department or an official of  
6 the Department delegated the duties  
7 of overseeing data security at the De-  
8 partment;

9 “(III) representatives of diverse  
10 institutions of higher education, which  
11 shall include equal representation be-  
12 tween 2-year and 4-year institutions  
13 of higher education, and from public,  
14 nonprofit, and proprietary institutions  
15 of higher education, including minor-  
16 ity-serving institutions;

17 “(IV) representatives from State  
18 higher education agencies, entities,  
19 bodies, or boards;

20 “(V) representatives of postsec-  
21 ondary students;

22 “(VI) representatives from rel-  
23 evant Federal agencies;

24 “(VII) individuals with expertise  
25 in data privacy and security; and



1                   “(VIII) other stakeholders (in-  
2                   cluding individuals with consumer  
3                   protection and postsecondary edu-  
4                   cation research).

5                   “(ii) REQUIREMENTS.—The Commis-  
6                   sioner shall ensure that the Advisory Com-  
7                   mittee—

8                   “(I) adheres to all requirements  
9                   under chapter 10 of title 5, United  
10                  States Code (commonly known as the  
11                  ‘Federal Advisory Committee Act’);

12                  “(II) establishes operating and  
13                  meeting procedures and guidelines  
14                  necessary to execute its advisory du-  
15                  ties; and

16                  “(III) is provided with appro-  
17                  priate staffing and resources to exe-  
18                  cute its advisory duties.

19                  “(C) REQUIRED DATA ELEMENTS.—The  
20                  data elements in the postsecondary student  
21                  data system shall include, at a minimum, the  
22                  following:

23                  “(i) Student-level data elements nec-  
24                  essary to calculate the information within  
25                  the surveys designated by the Commis-

1 sioner as ‘student-related surveys’ in the  
2 Integrated Postsecondary Education Data  
3 System (IPEDS), as such surveys are in  
4 effect on the day before the date of enact-  
5 ment of the Lowering Education Costs and  
6 Debt Act, except that in the case that col-  
7 lection of such elements would conflict with  
8 subparagraph (F), such elements in con-  
9 flict with subparagraph (F) shall be in-  
10 cluded in the aggregate instead of at the  
11 student level.

12 “(ii) Student-level data elements nec-  
13 essary to allow for reporting student en-  
14 rollment, persistence, retention, transfer,  
15 and completion measures for all credential  
16 levels separately (including certificate, as-  
17 sociate, baccalaureate, and advanced de-  
18 gree levels), within and across institutions  
19 of higher education (including across all  
20 categories of institution level, control, and  
21 predominant degree awarded). The data  
22 elements shall allow for reporting about all  
23 such data disaggregated by the following  
24 categories:

1           “(I) Enrollment status as a first-  
2           time student, recent transfer student,  
3           or other non-first-time student.

4           “(II) Attendance intensity,  
5           whether full-time or part-time.

6           “(III) Credential-seeking status,  
7           by credential level.

8           “(IV) Race or ethnicity, in a  
9           manner that captures all the racial  
10          groups specified in the most recent  
11          American Community Survey of the  
12          Bureau of the Census.

13          “(V) Age intervals.

14          “(VI) Gender.

15          “(VII) Program of study (as ap-  
16          plicable).

17          “(VIII) Military or veteran ben-  
18          efit status (as determined based on  
19          receipt of veteran’s education benefits,  
20          as defined in section 480(c)).

21          “(IX) Status as a distance edu-  
22          cation student, whether exclusively or  
23          partially enrolled in distance edu-  
24          cation.

1                   “(X) Federal Pell Grant recipient  
2                   status under section 401 and Federal  
3                   loan recipient status under title IV,  
4                   provided that the collection of such in-  
5                   formation complies with paragraph  
6                   (1)(B).

7                   “(D) OTHER DATA ELEMENTS.—

8                   “(i) IN GENERAL.—The Commissioner  
9                   may, after consultation with the Advisory  
10                  Committee and provision of a public com-  
11                  ment period, include additional data ele-  
12                  ments in the postsecondary student data  
13                  system, such as those described in clause  
14                  (ii), if those data elements—

15                         “(I) are necessary to ensure that  
16                         the postsecondary data system fulfills  
17                         the purposes described in paragraph  
18                         (1)(A); and

19                         “(II) are consistent with data  
20                         minimization principles, including the  
21                         collection of only those additional ele-  
22                         ments that are necessary to ensure  
23                         such purposes.

1                   “(ii) DATA ELEMENTS.—The data ele-  
2                   ments described in clause (i) may in-  
3                   clude—

4                   “ (I) status as a first generation  
5                   college student, as defined in section  
6                   402A(h);

7                   “ (II) economic status;

8                   “ (III) participation in postsec-  
9                   ondary remedial coursework or gate-  
10                  way course completion; or

11                  “ (IV) other data elements that  
12                  are necessary in accordance with  
13                  clause (i).

14                  “(E) REEVALUATION.—Not less than once  
15                  every 3 years after the implementation of the  
16                  postsecondary student data system described in  
17                  this subsection, the Commissioner, in consulta-  
18                  tion with the Advisory Committee described in  
19                  subparagraph (B), shall review the data ele-  
20                  ments included in the postsecondary student  
21                  data system and may revise the data elements  
22                  to be included in such system.

23                  “(F) PROHIBITIONS.—The Commissioner  
24                  shall not include individual health data (includ-  
25                  ing data relating to physical health or mental

1 health), student discipline records or data, ele-  
2 mentary and secondary education data, an  
3 exact address, citizenship status, migrant sta-  
4 tus, or national origin status for students or  
5 their families, course grades, postsecondary en-  
6 trance examination results, political affiliation,  
7 or religion in the postsecondary student data  
8 system under this subsection.

9 “(3) PERIODIC MATCHING WITH OTHER FED-  
10 ERAL DATA SYSTEMS.—

11 “(A) DATA SHARING AGREEMENTS.—

12 “(i) The Commissioner shall ensure  
13 secure and privacy-protected periodic data  
14 matches by entering into data sharing  
15 agreements with each of the following Fed-  
16 eral agencies and offices:

17 “(I) The Secretary of the Treas-  
18 ury and the Commissioner of the In-  
19 ternal Revenue Service, in order to  
20 calculate aggregate program- and in-  
21 stitution-level earnings of postsec-  
22 ondary students.

23 “(II) The Secretary of Defense,  
24 in order to assess the use of postsec-

1           ondary educational benefits and the  
2           outcomes of servicemembers.

3                   “(III) The Secretary of Veterans  
4           Affairs, in order to assess the use of  
5           postsecondary educational benefits  
6           and outcomes of veterans.

7                   “(IV) The Director of the Bu-  
8           reau of the Census, in order to assess  
9           the earnings outcomes of former post-  
10          secondary education students.

11                   “(V) The Chief Operating Officer  
12          of the Office of Federal Student Aid,  
13          in order to analyze the use of postsec-  
14          ondary educational benefits provided  
15          under this Act.

16                   “(VI) The Commissioner of the  
17          Social Security Administration, in  
18          order to evaluate labor market out-  
19          comes of former postsecondary edu-  
20          cation students.

21                   “(VII) The Commissioner of the  
22          Bureau of Labor Statistics, in order  
23          to assess the wages of former postsec-  
24          ondary education students.

1           “(ii) The heads of Federal agencies  
2           and offices described under clause (i) shall  
3           enter into data sharing agreements with  
4           the Commissioner to ensure secure and  
5           privacy-protected periodic data matches as  
6           described in this paragraph.

7           “(B) CATEGORIES OF DATA.—The Com-  
8           missioner shall, at a minimum, seek to ensure  
9           that the secure and privacy-protected periodic  
10          data matches described in subparagraph (A)  
11          permit consistent reporting of the following cat-  
12          egories of data for all postsecondary students:

13               “(i) Enrollment, retention, transfer,  
14               and completion outcomes for all postsec-  
15               ondary students.

16               “(ii) Financial indicators for postsec-  
17               ondary students receiving Federal grants  
18               and loans, including grant and loan aid by  
19               source, cumulative student debt, loan re-  
20               payment status, and repayment plan.

21               “(iii) Post-completion outcomes for all  
22               postsecondary students, including earnings,  
23               employment, and further education, by  
24               program of study and credential level and  
25               as measured—



1                   “(I) immediately after leaving  
2                   postsecondary education; and

3                   “(II) at time intervals appro-  
4                   priate to the credential sought and  
5                   earned.

6                   “(C) PERIODIC DATA MATCH STREAM-  
7                   LINING AND CONFIDENTIALITY.—

8                   “(i) STREAMLINING.—In carrying out  
9                   the secure and privacy-protected periodic  
10                  data matches under this paragraph, the  
11                  Commissioner shall—

12                  “(I) ensure that such matches  
13                  are not continuous, but occur only pe-  
14                  riodically at appropriate intervals, as  
15                  determined by the Commissioner to  
16                  meet the goals of subparagraph (A);  
17                  and

18                  “(II) seek to—

19                         “(aa) streamline the data  
20                         collection and reporting require-  
21                         ments for institutions of higher  
22                         education;

23                         “(bb) minimize duplicative  
24                         reporting across or within Fed-  
25                         eral agencies or departments, in-

1 including reporting requirements  
2 applicable to institutions of high-  
3 er education under the Workforce  
4 Innovation and Opportunity Act  
5 (29 U.S.C. 3101 et seq.) and the  
6 Carl D. Perkins Career and  
7 Technical Education Act of 2006;

8 “(cc) protect student pri-  
9 vacy; and

10 “(dd) streamline the applica-  
11 tion process for student loan ben-  
12 efit programs available to bor-  
13 rowers based on data available  
14 from different Federal data sys-  
15 tems.

16 “(ii) REVIEW.—Not less often than  
17 once every 3 years after the establishment  
18 of the postsecondary student data system  
19 under this subsection, the Commissioner,  
20 in consultation with the Advisory Com-  
21 mittee, shall review methods for stream-  
22 lining data collection from institutions of  
23 higher education and minimizing duplica-  
24 tive reporting within the Department and

1 across Federal agencies that provide data  
2 for the postsecondary student data system.

3 “(iii) CONFIDENTIALITY.—The Com-  
4 missioner shall ensure that any periodic  
5 matching or sharing of data through peri-  
6 odic data system matches established in  
7 accordance with this paragraph—

8 “(I) complies with the security  
9 and privacy protections described in  
10 paragraph (1)(C)(iv) and other Fed-  
11 eral data protection protocols;

12 “(II) follows industry best prac-  
13 tices commensurate with the sensi-  
14 tivity of specific data elements or  
15 metrics;

16 “(III) does not result in the cre-  
17 ation of a single standing, linked Fed-  
18 eral database at the Department that  
19 maintains the information reported  
20 across other Federal agencies; and

21 “(IV) discloses to postsecondary  
22 students what data are included in the  
23 data system and periodically matched  
24 and how the data are used.

1           “(iv) CORRECTION.—The Commis-  
2           sioner, in consultation with the Advisory  
3           Committee, shall establish a process for  
4           students to request access to only their  
5           personal information for inspection and re-  
6           quest corrections to inaccuracies in a man-  
7           ner that protects the student’s personally  
8           identifiable information. The Commissioner  
9           shall respond in writing to every request  
10          for a correction from a student.

11          “(4) PUBLICLY AVAILABLE INFORMATION.—

12           “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Commissioner  
13           shall make the summary aggregate information  
14           described in subparagraph (C), at a minimum,  
15           publicly available through a user-friendly con-  
16           sumer information website and analytic tool  
17           that—

18                   “(i) provides appropriate mechanisms  
19                   for users to customize and filter informa-  
20                   tion by institutional and student character-  
21                   istics;

22                   “(ii) allows users to build summary  
23                   aggregate reports of information, including  
24                   reports that allow comparisons across mul-

1           multiple institutions and programs, subject to  
2           subparagraph (B);

3           “(iii) uses appropriate statistical dis-  
4           closure limitation techniques necessary to  
5           ensure that the data released to the public  
6           cannot be used to identify specific individ-  
7           uals; and

8           “(iv) provides users with appropriate  
9           contextual factors to make comparisons,  
10          which may include national median figures  
11          of the summary aggregate information de-  
12          scribed in subparagraph (C).

13          “(B) NO PERSONALLY IDENTIFIABLE IN-  
14          FORMATION AVAILABLE.—The summary aggre-  
15          gate information described in this paragraph  
16          shall not include personally identifiable informa-  
17          tion.

18          “(C) SUMMARY AGGREGATE INFORMATION  
19          AVAILABLE.—The summary aggregate informa-  
20          tion described in this paragraph shall, at a min-  
21          imum, include each of the following for each in-  
22          stitution of higher education:

23                 “(i) Measures of student access, in-  
24                 cluding—

1                   “(I) admissions selectivity and  
2                   yield; and

3                   “(II) enrollment, disaggregated  
4                   by each category described in para-  
5                   graph (2)(C)(ii).

6                   “(ii) Measures of student progression,  
7                   including retention rates and persistence  
8                   rates, disaggregated by each category de-  
9                   scribed in paragraph (2)(C)(ii).

10                   “(iii) Measures of student completion,  
11                   including—

12                   “(I) transfer rates and comple-  
13                   tion rates, disaggregated by each cat-  
14                   egory described in paragraph  
15                   (2)(C)(ii); and

16                   “(II) number of completions,  
17                   disaggregated by each category de-  
18                   scribed in paragraph (2)(C)(ii).

19                   “(iv) Measures of student costs, in-  
20                   cluding—

21                   “(I) tuition, required fees, total  
22                   cost of attendance, and net price after  
23                   total grant aid, disaggregated by in-  
24                   State tuition or in-district tuition sta-  
25                   tus (if applicable), program of study

1 (if applicable), and credential level;  
2 and

3 “(II) typical grant amounts and  
4 loan amounts received by students re-  
5 ported separately from Federal, State,  
6 local, and institutional sources, and  
7 cumulative debt, disaggregated by  
8 each category described in paragraph  
9 (2)(C)(ii) and completion status.

10 “(v) Measures of postcollegiate stu-  
11 dent outcomes, including employment  
12 rates, mean and median earnings, loan re-  
13 payment and default rates, and further  
14 education rates. These measures shall—

15 “(I) be disaggregated by each  
16 category described in paragraph  
17 (2)(C)(ii) and completion status; and

18 “(II) be measured immediately  
19 after leaving postsecondary education  
20 and at time intervals appropriate to  
21 the credential sought or earned.

22 “(D) DEVELOPMENT CRITERIA.—In devel-  
23 oping the method and format of making the in-  
24 formation described in this paragraph publicly  
25 available, the Commissioner shall—

1           “(i) focus on the needs of the users of  
2 the information, which will include stu-  
3 dents, families of students, potential stu-  
4 dents, researchers, and other consumers of  
5 education data;

6           “(ii) take into consideration, to the  
7 extent practicable, the guidelines described  
8 in paragraph (1)(C)(ii)(I), and relevant  
9 successor documents or recommendations  
10 of such guidelines;

11           “(iii) use modern, relevant technology  
12 and enhance and update the postsecondary  
13 student data system with information, as  
14 necessary to carry out the purpose of this  
15 paragraph;

16           “(iv) ensure data privacy and security  
17 in accordance with standards and guide-  
18 lines developed by the National Institute of  
19 Standards and Technology, and in accord-  
20 ance with any other Federal law relating to  
21 privacy or security, including complying  
22 with the requirements of subchapter II of  
23 chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code,  
24 specifying security categorization under the  
25 Federal Information Processing Standards,



1 and security requirements, and setting of  
2 National Institute of Standards and Tech-  
3 nology security baseline controls at the ap-  
4 propriate level; and

5 “(v) conduct consumer testing to de-  
6 termine how to make the information as  
7 meaningful to users as possible.

8 “(5) PERMISSIBLE DISCLOSURES OF DATA.—

9 “(A) DATA REPORTS AND QUERIES.—

10 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 4  
11 years after the date of enactment of the  
12 Lowering Education Costs and Debt Act,  
13 the Commissioner shall develop and imple-  
14 ment a secure and privacy-protected proc-  
15 ess for making student-level, non-person-  
16 ally identifiable information, with direct  
17 identifiers removed, from the postsec-  
18 ondary student data system available for  
19 vetted research and evaluation purposes  
20 approved by the Commissioner in a man-  
21 ner compatible with practices for disclosing  
22 National Center for Education Statistics  
23 restricted-use survey data as in effect on  
24 the day before the date of enactment of the  
25 Lowering Education Costs and Debt Act,

1 or by applying other research and disclo-  
2 sure restrictions to ensure data privacy  
3 and security. Such process shall be ap-  
4 proved by the National Center for Edu-  
5 cation Statistics' Disclosure Review Board  
6 (or successor body).

7 “(ii) PROVIDING DATA REPORTS AND  
8 QUERIES TO INSTITUTIONS AND STATES.—

9 “(I) IN GENERAL.—The Commis-  
10 sioner shall provide feedback reports,  
11 at least annually, to each institution  
12 of higher education, each postsec-  
13 ondary education system that fully  
14 participates in the postsecondary stu-  
15 dent data system, and each State  
16 higher education body as designated  
17 by the governor.

18 “(II) FEEDBACK REPORTS.—The  
19 feedback reports provided under this  
20 clause shall include program-level and  
21 institution-level information from the  
22 postsecondary student data system re-  
23 garding students who are associated  
24 with the institution or, for State rep-  
25 resentatives, the institutions within

1 that State, on or before the date of  
2 the report, on measures including stu-  
3 dent mobility and workforce outcomes,  
4 provided that the feedback aggregate  
5 summary reports protect the privacy  
6 of individuals.

7 “(III) DETERMINATION OF CON-  
8 TENT.—The content of the feedback  
9 reports shall be determined by the  
10 Commissioner in consultation with the  
11 Advisory Committee.

12 “(iii) PERMITTING STATE DATA QUE-  
13 RIES.—The Commissioner shall, in con-  
14 sultation with the Advisory Committee and  
15 as soon as practicable, create a process  
16 through which States may submit lists of  
17 secondary school graduates within the  
18 State to receive summary aggregate out-  
19 comes for those students who enrolled at  
20 an institution of higher education, includ-  
21 ing postsecondary enrollment and college  
22 completion, provided that those data pro-  
23 tect the privacy of individuals and that the  
24 State data submitted to the Commissioner

1           are not stored in the postsecondary edu-  
2           cation system.

3           “(iv) REGULATIONS.—The Commis-  
4           sioner shall promulgate regulations to en-  
5           sure fair, secure and privacy-protected, and  
6           equitable access to data reports and que-  
7           ries under this paragraph.

8           “(B) DISCLOSURE LIMITATIONS.—In car-  
9           rying out the public reporting and disclosure re-  
10          quirements of this subsection, the Commis-  
11          sioner shall use appropriate statistical disclo-  
12          sure limitation techniques necessary to ensure  
13          that the data released to the public cannot in-  
14          clude personally identifiable information or be  
15          used to identify specific individuals.

16          “(C) SALE OF DATA PROHIBITED.—Data  
17          collected under this subsection, including the  
18          public-use data set and data comprising the  
19          summary aggregate information available under  
20          paragraph (4), shall not be sold to any third  
21          party by the Commissioner, including any insti-  
22          tution of higher education or any other entity.

23          “(D) LIMITATION ON USE BY OTHER FED-  
24          ERAL AGENCIES.—

1           “(i) IN GENERAL.—The Commissioner  
2           shall not allow any other Federal agency to  
3           use data collected under this subsection for  
4           any purpose except—

5                   “(I) for vetted research and eval-  
6                   uation conducted by the other Federal  
7                   agency, as described in subparagraph  
8                   (A)(i); or

9                   “(II) for a purpose explicitly au-  
10                  thorized by this Act.

11           “(ii) PROHIBITION ON LIMITATION OF  
12           SERVICES.—The Secretary, or the head of  
13           any other Federal agency, shall not use  
14           data collected under this subsection to  
15           limit services to students.

16           “(E) LAW ENFORCEMENT.—Personally  
17           identifiable information collected under this  
18           subsection shall not be used for any Federal,  
19           State, or local law enforcement activity or any  
20           other activity that would result in adverse ac-  
21           tion against any student or a student’s family,  
22           including debt collection activity or enforcement  
23           of immigration laws.

24           “(F) LIMITATION OF USE FOR FEDERAL  
25           RANKINGS OR SUMMATIVE RATING SYSTEM.—

1           The comprehensive data collection and analysis  
2           necessary for the postsecondary student data  
3           system under this subsection shall not be used  
4           by the Secretary or any Federal entity to estab-  
5           lish any Federal ranking system of institutions  
6           of higher education or a system that results in  
7           a summative Federal rating of institutions of  
8           higher education.

9           “(G) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing  
10          in this paragraph shall be construed to prevent  
11          the use of individual categories of aggregate in-  
12          formation to be used for accountability pur-  
13          poses.

14          “(H) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION REGARDING  
15          COMMERCIAL USE OF DATA.—Nothing in this  
16          paragraph shall be construed to prohibit third-  
17          party entities from using publicly available in-  
18          formation in this data system for commercial  
19          use.

20          “(6) SUBMISSION OF DATA.—

21          “(A) REQUIRED SUBMISSION.—Each insti-  
22          tution of higher education participating in a  
23          program under title IV, or the assigned agent  
24          of such institution, shall, for each eligible pro-  
25          gram, in accordance with section 487(a)(17),

1 collect, and submit to the Commissioner, the  
2 data requested by the Commissioner to carry  
3 out this subsection.

4 “(B) VOLUNTARY SUBMISSION.—Any insti-  
5 tution of higher education not participating in  
6 a program under title IV may voluntarily par-  
7 ticipate in the postsecondary student data sys-  
8 tem under this subsection by collecting and sub-  
9 mitting data to the Commissioner, as the Com-  
10 missioner may request to carry out this sub-  
11 section.

12 “(C) PERSONALLY IDENTIFIABLE INFOR-  
13 MATION.—In accordance with paragraph  
14 (2)(C)(i), if the submission of an element of  
15 student-level data is prohibited under para-  
16 graph (2)(F) (or otherwise prohibited by law),  
17 the institution of higher education shall submit  
18 that data to the Commissioner in the aggregate.

19 “(7) UNLAWFUL WILLFUL DISCLOSURE.—

20 “(A) IN GENERAL.—It shall be unlawful  
21 for any person who obtains or has access to  
22 personally identifiable information in connection  
23 with the postsecondary student data system de-  
24 scribed in this subsection to willfully disclose to  
25 any person (except as authorized in this Act or

1 by any Federal law) such personally identifiable  
2 information.

3 “(B) PENALTY.—Any person who violates  
4 subparagraph (A) shall be subject to a penalty  
5 described under section 3572(f) of title 44,  
6 United States Code, and section 183(d)(6) of  
7 the Education Sciences Reform Act of 2002 (20  
8 U.S.C. 9573(d)(6)).

9 “(C) EMPLOYEE OF OFFICER OF THE  
10 UNITED STATES.—If a violation of subpara-  
11 graph (A) is committed by any officer or em-  
12 ployee of the United States, the officer or em-  
13 ployee shall be dismissed from office or dis-  
14 charged from employment upon conviction for  
15 the violation.

16 “(8) DATA SECURITY.—The Commissioner shall  
17 produce and update as needed guidance and regula-  
18 tions relating to privacy, security, and access which  
19 shall govern the use and disclosure of data collected  
20 in connection with the activities authorized in this  
21 subsection. The guidance and regulations developed  
22 and reviewed shall protect data from unauthorized  
23 access, use, and disclosure, and shall include—

24 “(A) an audit capability, including manda-  
25 tory and regularly conducted audits;



1           “(B) access controls;

2           “(C) requirements to ensure sufficient data  
3 security, quality, validity, and reliability;

4           “(D) confidentiality protection in accord-  
5 ance with the applicable provisions of sub-  
6 chapter III of chapter 35 of title 44, United  
7 States Code;

8           “(E) appropriate and applicable privacy  
9 and security protection, including data retention  
10 and destruction protocols and data minimiza-  
11 tion, in accordance with the most recent Fed-  
12 eral standards developed by the National Insti-  
13 tute of Standards and Technology; and

14           “(F) protocols for managing a breach, in-  
15 cluding breach notifications, in accordance with  
16 the standards of National Center for Education  
17 Statistics.

18           “(9) DATA COLLECTION.—The Commissioner  
19 shall ensure that data collection, maintenance, and  
20 use under this subsection complies with section 552a  
21 of title 5, United States Code.

22           “(10) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

23           “(A) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDU-  
24 CATION.—The term ‘institution of higher edu-

1 cation' has the meaning given the term in sec-  
 2 tion 102.

3 “(B) MINORITY-SERVING INSTITUTION.—  
 4 The term ‘minority-serving institution’ means  
 5 an institution of higher education listed in sec-  
 6 tion 371(a).

7 “(C) PERSONALLY IDENTIFIABLE INFOR-  
 8 MATION.—The term ‘personally identifiable in-  
 9 formation’ means personally identifiable infor-  
 10 mation within the meaning of section 444 of the  
 11 General Education Provisions Act.”.

12 **SEC. 102. REPEAL OF PROHIBITION ON STUDENT DATA SYS-**  
 13 **TEM.**

14 Section 134 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20  
 15 U.S.C. 1015c) is repealed.

16 **SEC. 103. INSTITUTIONAL REQUIREMENTS.**

17 (a) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (17) of section 487(a)  
 18 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1094(a))  
 19 is amended to read as follows:

20 “(17) The institution or the assigned agent of  
 21 the institution will collect and submit data to the  
 22 Commissioner for Education Statistics in accordance  
 23 with section 132(l), the nonstudent related surveys  
 24 within the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data  
 25 System (IPEDS), or any other Federal institution of

1 higher education data collection effort (as designated  
 2 by the Secretary), in a timely manner and to the  
 3 satisfaction of the Secretary.”.

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

7 **SEC. 104. TRANSITION PROVISIONS.**

8 The Secretary of Education and the Commissioner  
 9 for Education Statistics shall take such steps as are nec-  
 10 essary to ensure that the development and maintenance  
 11 of the postsecondary student data system required under  
 12 section 132(l) of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as  
 13 added by section 101 of this Act, occurs in a manner that  
 14 reduces the reporting burden for entities that reported  
 15 into the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System  
 16 (IPEDS).

17 **TITLE II—UNDERSTANDING THE**  
 18 **TRUE COST OF COLLEGE**

19 **SEC. 201. INSTITUTION FINANCIAL AID OFFER FORM.**

20 Section 484 of the Higher Education Opportunity  
 21 Act (20 U.S.C. 1092 note) is amended to read as follows:

22 **“SEC. 484. INSTITUTION FINANCIAL AID OFFER FORM.**

23 **“(a) STANDARD FORMAT AND TERMINOLOGY.—**The  
 24 Secretary of Education, in consultation with the heads of  
 25 relevant Federal agencies, shall develop standard termi-

1 nology and a standard format for financial aid offer forms  
 2 based on recommendations from representatives of stu-  
 3 dents, veterans, servicemembers, students' families, insti-  
 4 tutions of higher education (including community colleges,  
 5 for-profit institutions, four-year public institutions, and  
 6 four-year private nonprofit institutions), financial aid ex-  
 7 perts, secondary school and postsecondary counselors,  
 8 nonprofit organizations, and consumer groups.

9       “(b) KEY REQUIRED CONTENTS FOR OFFER  
 10 FORM.—The standard format developed under subsection  
 11 (a) shall include, in a consumer-friendly manner that is  
 12 simple and understandable, a form titled ‘Financial Aid  
 13 Offer’, which shall include the following items, with costs  
 14 listed first followed by grants and scholarships, clearly  
 15 separated from each other with separate headings:

16               “(1) COST INFORMATION.—

17                       “(A) Information on the student’s esti-  
 18 mated cost of attendance, including the fol-  
 19 lowing:

20                               “(i) Total direct costs, including the  
 21 component totals each for—

22                                       “(I) tuition and fees, as deter-  
 23 mined under section 472 of the High-  
 24 er Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.  
 25 1087ll); and

1                   “(II) college-sponsored housing  
2                   and food costs (as determined based  
3                   on the costs for room and board  
4                   under such section).

5                   “(ii) Total estimated other expenses,  
6                   including—

7                   “(I) the component totals each  
8                   for housing and food costs for stu-  
9                   dents who reside off-campus; and

10                   “(II) for all students, books, sup-  
11                   plies, transportation, and miscella-  
12                   neous personal expenses (which may  
13                   include costs of health insurance and  
14                   dependent care), as determined under  
15                   section 472 of the Higher Education  
16                   Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1087ll).

17                   “(B) An indication of the academic period  
18                   covered by the financial aid offer, and an expla-  
19                   nation that the financial aid offered may  
20                   change for academic periods not covered by the  
21                   aid offer or by program.

22                   “(C) An indication of whether cost and aid  
23                   estimates are based on full-time or part-time  
24                   enrollment.

1           “(D) An indication, as applicable, about  
2           whether the tuition and fees are estimated  
3           based on the previous year, or are set, for the  
4           academic period indicated in accordance with  
5           subparagraph (B).

6           “(2) GRANTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS.—The aggre-  
7           gate amount of grants and scholarships by source  
8           that the student does not have to repay, such as  
9           grant aid offered under title IV of the Higher Edu-  
10          cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070 et seq.) and  
11          grant aid offered through other Federal programs,  
12          grant aid offered by the institution, grant aid of-  
13          fered by the State, and, if known, grant aid from an  
14          outside source to the student for such academic pe-  
15          riod, including—

16               “(A) a disclosure that the grants and  
17               scholarships do not have to be repaid; and

18               “(B) if institutional aid is included—

19                       “(i) the conditions under which the  
20                       student can expect to receive similar  
21                       amounts of such financial aid for each aca-  
22                       demic period the student is enrolled at the  
23                       institution; and

24                       “(ii) whether the institutional aid  
25                       offer may change if grants or scholarships

1 from outside sources are applied after the  
2 student receives the offer form, and, if ap-  
3 plicable, how that aid will change.

4 “(3) NET PRICE.—

5 “(A) The net price that the student, or the  
6 student’s family on behalf of the student, is es-  
7 timated to have to pay for the student to attend  
8 the institution for such academic period, equal  
9 to—

10 “(i) the cost of attendance as de-  
11 scribed in paragraph (1)(A) for the stu-  
12 dent for the period indicated in paragraph  
13 (1)(B); minus

14 “(ii) the amount of grant aid de-  
15 scribed in paragraph (2) that is included in  
16 the financial aid offer form.

17 “(B) A disclosure that the net price is an  
18 estimate of the total expenses for the year and  
19 not equivalent to the amount the student will  
20 owe directly to the institution.

21 “(4) LOANS.—

22 “(A) Information on any loan under part  
23 D or part E of title IV of the Higher Education  
24 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1087a et seq.; 20  
25 U.S.C. 1087aa et seq.) (except a Federal Direct

1 PLUS Loan under part D of that Act) that the  
2 institution recommends for the student for the  
3 academic period covered by the offer, which  
4 shall be made—

5 “(i) with clear use of the word ‘loan’  
6 to describe the recommended loan  
7 amounts; and

8 “(ii) with clear labeling of subsidized  
9 and unsubsidized loans.

10 “(B) A disclosure that such loans have to  
11 be repaid and a disclosure that the student can  
12 borrow a lesser or, if applicable, greater amount  
13 than the recommended loan amount.

14 “(C) A disclosure that the interest rates  
15 and fees on such loans are set annually and af-  
16 fect total cost over time, and a link to a De-  
17 partment of Education website that includes  
18 current information on interest rates and fees.

19 “(D) A link to the Department of Edu-  
20 cation’s repayment calculator website for stu-  
21 dents with instruction that this website contains  
22 customizable estimates of expected repayment  
23 costs under different loan repayment plans.

24 “(5) PROCESS FOR ACCEPTING OR DECLINING  
25 AID AND NEXT STEPS.—



1           “(A) The deadlines and a summary of the  
2 process (including the next steps) for—

3                   “(i) accepting the financial aid offered  
4 in the financial aid offer form;

5                   “(ii) requesting higher loan amounts  
6 if recommended loan amounts were in-  
7 cluded; and

8                   “(iii) declining aid offered in the  
9 form.

10           “(B) Information on when and how direct  
11 costs to the institution must be paid.

12           “(C) A disclosure that verification of finan-  
13 cial circumstances may require the student to  
14 submit further documentation.

15           “(D) Information about where a student or  
16 the student’s family can seek additional infor-  
17 mation regarding the financial aid offered, in-  
18 cluding contact information for the institution’s  
19 financial aid office and the Department of Edu-  
20 cation’s website on financial aid.

21           “(6) ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.—Any other  
22 information the Secretary of Education, in consulta-  
23 tion with the heads of relevant Federal agencies, in-  
24 cluding the Secretary of the Treasury and the Direc-  
25 tor of the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection,

1 determines necessary (based on the results of the  
2 consumer testing under paragraph (g)(2)) so that  
3 students and parents can make informed loan bor-  
4 rowing decisions, which may include—

5 “(A) the most recent cohort default rate,  
6 as defined in section 435(m) of the Higher  
7 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1085(m))  
8 with respect to an institution where more than  
9 30 percent of enrolled students borrow loans to  
10 pay for their education, and a comparison to  
11 the national average cohort default rate;

12 “(B) the percentage of students at the in-  
13 stitution who borrow student loans;

14 “(C) the median loan debt at graduation  
15 for students at the institution (clearly marked  
16 as including only Federal loans if private loan  
17 data are not available to be included); and

18 “(D) any additional calculations deter-  
19 mined necessary for ensuring that students un-  
20 derstand full college costs, financial aid gaps,  
21 and options for covering those gaps.

22 “(c) OTHER REQUIRED CONTENTS FOR THE OFFER  
23 FORM.—The standard form developed under subsection  
24 (a) shall include, in addition to the information described  
25 in subsection (b), the following information to be included

1 on the financial aid offer form in a concise format deter-  
2 mined by the Secretary of Education, in consultation with  
3 the heads of relevant Federal agencies:

4 “(1) At the institution’s discretion—

5 “(A) additional options and potential re-  
6 sources for paying for the amount listed in sub-  
7 section (b)(3), such as tuition payment plans;  
8 and

9 “(B) a disclosure that Federal Direct  
10 PLUS Loans or private education loans may be  
11 available to cover remaining need, except that  
12 the institution may not include an amount for  
13 Federal Direct PLUS Loans or private edu-  
14 cation loans and must include a disclosure for  
15 Federal Direct PLUS Loans that such loans  
16 are subject to an additional application process,  
17 and a disclosure that both types of loans have  
18 to be repaid by the borrower, and may not be  
19 eligible for all the benefits available for Federal  
20 Direct Stafford Loans or Federal Direct Un-  
21 subsidized Stafford Loans.

22 “(2) The following information relating to pri-  
23 vate student loans:

24 “(A) A statement that students consid-  
25 ering borrowing to cover the cost of attendance

1           should consider available Federal student loans  
2           prior to applying for private education loans, in-  
3           cluding an explanation that Federal student  
4           loans offer generally more favorable terms and  
5           beneficial repayment options than private loans.

6           “(B) The impact of a proposed private  
7           education loan on the student’s potential eligi-  
8           bility for other financial assistance, including  
9           Federal financial assistance under title IV of  
10          the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.  
11          1070 et seq.).

12          “(C) A statement explaining the student’s  
13          ability to select a private educational lender of  
14          the student’s choice.

15          “(3) Information on work-study employment  
16          opportunities, offered in accordance with part C of  
17          title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20  
18          U.S.C. 1087–51 et seq.) including a disclosure that  
19          the work-study aid offered is subject to the avail-  
20          ability of qualified employment opportunities and is  
21          disbursed over time as earned by the student. Work-  
22          study employment opportunities (or a student’s po-  
23          tential income based on those opportunities) shall  
24          not be included in the category of financial aid de-  
25          scribed under subsection (b)(2).

1       “(d) ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR FINANCIAL  
2 AID OFFER FORM.—The financial aid offer form shall  
3 meet the following requirements:

4           “(1) Include, in addition to the requirements  
5 described in subsections (b) and (c), a concise sum-  
6 mary, in plain language, of—

7           “(A) the terms and conditions of financial  
8 aid recommended under paragraphs (2) and (4)  
9 of subsection (b) and subsection (c)(3), and a  
10 method to provide students with additional in-  
11 formation about such terms and conditions,  
12 such as links to the supplementary information;  
13 and

14           “(B) Federal, State, or institutional condi-  
15 tions required to receive and renew financial aid  
16 and a method to provide students with addi-  
17 tional information about these conditions, such  
18 as links to the supplementary information.

19           “(2) Clearly distinguish between the aid offered  
20 under paragraphs (2) and (4) of subsection (b) and  
21 subsection (c)(3), by including a subtotal for the aid  
22 offered in each of such paragraphs and by refraining  
23 from commingling the different types of aid de-  
24 scribed in such paragraphs.

1           “(3) Use standard terminology and definitions,  
2           as described in subsection (e)(1) and use plain lan-  
3           guage where possible.

4           “(4) If an institution’s recommended Federal  
5           student loan aid offered in subsection (b)(4) is less  
6           than the Federal maximum available to the student,  
7           the institution shall provide additional information  
8           on Federal student loans, including the types and  
9           amounts for which the student is eligible in an at-  
10          tached document or web page.

11          “(5) Use the standard offer form described in  
12          subsection (e)(2).

13          “(6) Include the standardized statement regard-  
14          ing the possible availability of Federal education  
15          benefits, as established by the Secretary in accord-  
16          ance with subsection (e)(3).

17          “(7) Include a delivery confirmation for elec-  
18          tronic financial aid offer forms, except that receipt  
19          of the financial aid offer form shall not be consid-  
20          ered an acceptance or rejection of aid by the stu-  
21          dent.

22          “(8) With respect to dependent students, any  
23          reference to private education loans shall be accom-  
24          panied by—

1           “(A) information about the availability of,  
2           and terms and conditions associated with, Fed-  
3           eral Direct PLUS Loans under section 455 of  
4           the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.  
5           1087e) for the student’s parents regardless of  
6           family income; and

7           “(B) a notification of the student’s in-  
8           creased eligibility for Federal student loans  
9           under title IV of the Higher Education Act of  
10          1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070 et seq.) if the student’s  
11          parents are not able to borrow under the Fed-  
12          eral Direct PLUS Loan program.

13          “(e) STANDARD INFORMATION ESTABLISHED BY  
14 THE SECRETARY.—

15          “(1) STANDARD TERMINOLOGY.—Not later  
16          than 3 months after the date of enactment of the  
17          Lowering Education Costs and Debt Act, the Sec-  
18          retary of Education, in consultation with the heads  
19          of relevant Federal agencies, including the Secretary  
20          of the Treasury and the Director of the Consumer  
21          Financial Protection Bureau, representatives of in-  
22          stitutions of higher education, nonprofit consumer  
23          groups, students, and secondary school and higher  
24          education guidance counselors, shall establish stand-

1       ard terminology and definitions for the terms de-  
2       scribed in subsection (b).

3               “(2) STANDARD FORM.—

4                       “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Edu-  
5       cation shall develop multiple draft financial aid  
6       offer forms for consumer testing, carry out con-  
7       sumer testing for such forms, and establish a fi-  
8       nalized standard financial aid offer form, in ac-  
9       cordance with the process established in sub-  
10      section (g) and the requirements of this section.

11                      “(B) SEPARATE FINANCIAL AID OFFER  
12      FORMS.—The Secretary may develop separate  
13      financial aid offer forms for—

14                               “(i) undergraduate students and grad-  
15                               uate students; and

16                               “(ii) first-time students and returning  
17                               students.

18               “(3) ADDITIONAL BENEFITS.—The Secretary of  
19      Education, in consultation with the heads of relevant  
20      Federal agencies, including the Secretary of the  
21      Treasury, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, the Sec-  
22      retary of Defense, and the Director of the Consumer  
23      Financial Protection Bureau, shall establish stand-  
24      ard language notifying students that they may be el-  
25      igible for education benefits (and where students can



1 locate more information about such benefits) includ-  
2 ing benefits in accordance with each of the following:

3 “(A) Chapter 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, or 35 of  
4 title 38, United States Code.

5 “(B) Chapter 101, 105, 106A, 1606, 1607,  
6 or 1608 of title 10, United States Code.

7 “(C) Section 1784a, 2005, or 2007 of title  
8 10, United States Code.

9 “(f) SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION; REMOVAL OF  
10 INFORMATION.—

11 “(1) Nothing in this section shall preclude an  
12 institution from supplementing the financial aid  
13 offer form with additional information if such addi-  
14 tional information supplements the financial aid  
15 offer form and is not located on the financial aid  
16 offer form, and provided such information utilizes  
17 the same standard terminology identified in sub-  
18 section (e)(1).

19 “(2) Nothing in this section shall preclude an  
20 institution from deleting a required item if the stu-  
21 dent is ineligible for such aid.

22 “(g) DEVELOPMENT OF FINANCIAL AID OFFER  
23 FORM.—

24 “(1) DRAFT FORM.—Not later than 9 months  
25 after the date of enactment of the Lowering Edu-

1        cation Costs and Debt Act, the Secretary of Edu-  
2        cation, in consultation with the heads of relevant  
3        Federal agencies, including the Secretary of the  
4        Treasury and the Director of the Consumer Finan-  
5        cial Protection Bureau, representatives of institu-  
6        tions of higher education, nonprofit consumer  
7        groups, students, and secondary school and higher  
8        education guidance counselors, shall design and  
9        produce multiple draft financial aid offer forms for  
10       consumer testing with postsecondary students or  
11       prospective students. In developing that form, the  
12       Secretary shall ensure—

13                “(A) that the headings described in para-  
14                graphs (1) through (4) of subsection (b) are in  
15                the same font, appear in the same order, and  
16                are displayed prominently on the financial aid  
17                offer form, such that none of that information  
18                is inappropriately omitted or de-emphasized;

19                “(B) that the other information required  
20                in subsection (b) appears in a standard format  
21                and design on the financial aid offer form; and

22                “(C) that the institution may include a  
23                logo or brand alongside the title of the financial  
24                aid offer form.

25                “(2) CONSUMER TESTING.—

1           “(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 9  
2 months after the date of enactment of the Low-  
3 ering Education Costs and Debt Act, the Sec-  
4 retary of Education, in consultation with the  
5 heads of relevant Federal agencies, shall estab-  
6 lish a process to submit the financial aid offer  
7 form drafts developed under paragraph (1) for  
8 consumer testing among representatives of stu-  
9 dents (including low-income students, first gen-  
10 eration college students, adult students, vet-  
11 erans, servicemembers, and prospective stu-  
12 dents), students’ families (including low-income  
13 families, families with first generation college  
14 students, and families with prospective stu-  
15 dents), institutions of higher education, sec-  
16 ondary school and postsecondary counselors,  
17 and nonprofit consumer groups.

18           “(B) PILOT.—During such consumer test-  
19 ing, the Secretary shall ensure that not less  
20 than 16 and not more than 24 eligible institu-  
21 tions use the draft forms developed under para-  
22 graph (1), including institutions—

23           “(i) that reflect a proportionate rep-  
24 resentation (based on the total number of  
25 students enrolled in postsecondary edu-

1 cation) of community colleges, for-profit  
2 institutions, four-year public institutions,  
3 and four-year private nonprofit institu-  
4 tions; and

5 “(ii) that reflect geographic diversity.

6 “(C) LENGTH OF CONSUMER TESTING.—

7 The Secretary of Education shall ensure that  
8 the consumer testing under this paragraph lasts  
9 no longer than 8 months after the process for  
10 consumer testing is developed under subpara-  
11 graph (A).

12 “(3) FINAL FORM.—

13 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The results of con-  
14 sumer testing under paragraph (2) shall be  
15 used in the final development of the financial  
16 aid offer form.

17 “(B) REPORTING REQUIREMENT.—Not  
18 later than 3 months after the date the con-  
19 sumer testing under paragraph (2) concludes,  
20 the Secretary of Education shall submit to Con-  
21 gress and publish on its website the final stand-  
22 ard financial aid offer form and a report detail-  
23 ing the results of such testing, including wheth-  
24 er the Secretary of Education added any addi-





1           rower” and inserting “the first disbursement to  
2           a borrower in each award year”; and

3           (B) in the matter preceding subclause (I)  
4           of paragraph clause (ii), by striking “may” and  
5           inserting “shall”;

6           (3) in paragraph (2)—

7           (A) by redesignating subparagraphs (A)  
8           through (K) as subparagraphs (B) through (L);

9           (B) by inserting before subparagraph (B),  
10          as so redesignated, the following:

11          “(A) An explanation that the borrower will  
12          need to affirmatively determine and manually  
13          enter, in accordance with subsection (n), the  
14          Federal loan amount that the borrower will bor-  
15          row (which may be equal to or less than the  
16          Federal loan amount for which the borrower is  
17          eligible) for each award year.”;

18          (C) by striking subparagraph (G) and in-  
19          serting the following:

20          “(G) Sample monthly repayment amounts,  
21          under a standard repayment plan and under  
22          the income-driven repayment plan that had the  
23          highest enrollment in the previous year for bor-  
24          rowers (excluding parent borrowers), based  
25          on—

1 “(i)(I) the median levels of indebted-  
2 ness, as appropriate, of—

3 “(aa) undergraduate borrowers of  
4 Federal Direct Stafford Loans or  
5 Federal Unsubsidized Stafford Loans  
6 who were enrolled in the institution;

7 “(bb) graduate borrowers of Fed-  
8 eral Direct Stafford Loans, Federal  
9 Unsubsidized Stafford Loans, or Fed-  
10 eral Direct Plus Loans who were en-  
11 rolled in the institution; and

12 “(cc) parent borrowers of Federal  
13 Direct Plus Loans made on behalf of  
14 dependent students who were enrolled  
15 at the institution;

16 “(II) the median cumulative indebted-  
17 ness of borrowers of loans described in  
18 subclause (I) in the same program as the  
19 borrower at the same institution; and

20 “(ii) the median annual earnings for  
21 individuals who attended the institution, as  
22 described in subparagraph (N).”; and

23 (D) by adding at the end the following:

24 “(M) A statement that the borrower does  
25 not have to accept the full amount of loans for



1           which the borrower is eligible, and an expla-  
2           nation that loan eligibility calculations are de-  
3           termined based on a cost of attendance that  
4           may include expenses such as housing, food,  
5           and transportation.

6           “(N) The most recent College Scorecard  
7           information (or information from a similar suc-  
8           cessor website) that shows the median annual  
9           earnings of students who received Federal stu-  
10          dent aid and who are no longer enrolled at the  
11          institution and are working, at the time that is  
12          10 years after the date of such students’ entry  
13          to the institution—

14                 “(i) for individuals who were enrolled  
15                 in the institution; and

16                 “(ii) if available through the College  
17                 Scorecard (or similar successor website),  
18                 for individuals who were enrolled in the  
19                 borrower’s undergraduate or graduate pro-  
20                 gram.

21           “(O) The percentage of borrowers who at-  
22           tended the institution and have completed or  
23           are no longer enrolled that are in active repay-  
24           ment (as compared to all borrowers who at-

1 tended the institution and have completed or  
2 are no longer enrolled).

3 “(P) For undergraduate borrowers, the  
4 completion rate of the institution, as available  
5 through the College Scorecard (or similar suc-  
6 cessor website), for the most recent year for  
7 which data are available.

8 “(Q) A statement that—

9 “(i) the statistics provided under this  
10 paragraph are averages and median values  
11 based on past years;

12 “(ii) the borrower’s repayment  
13 amounts, median earnings, and likelihood  
14 of completion may vary from such statis-  
15 tics; and

16 “(iii) as appropriate, parent borrowers  
17 should be aware that information about  
18 the median earnings, completion rate, and  
19 percentage of borrowers in active repay-  
20 ment is based on data that excludes parent  
21 borrowers.

22 “(R) A statement in writing and in a form  
23 the borrower may keep, of the annual percent-  
24 age rate applicable to the loan based on a 10-

1 year standard repayment plan, taking into ac-  
 2 count—

3 “(i) the amount of the loan;

4 “(ii) the stated interest rate of the  
 5 loan;

6 “(iii) the standard term for a loan of  
 7 the same type;

8 “(iv) any fees or additional costs asso-  
 9 ciated with the loan; and

10 “(v) any capitalization of interest on  
 11 the loan.”; and

12 (4) by adding at the end the following:

13 “(3) INFORMATION FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF  
 14 EDUCATION.—The Secretary shall provide institu-  
 15 tions with the data and statistics necessary to enable  
 16 institutions to carry out this subsection.”.

17 **SEC. 302. ANNUAL REQUIREMENT TO MANUALLY ENTER**  
 18 **LOAN AMOUNT.**

19 Section 485 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20  
 20 U.S.C. 1092), as amended by section 301, is further  
 21 amended by adding at the end the following:

22 “(n) ANNUAL REQUIREMENT TO MANUALLY ENTER  
 23 LOAN AMOUNT.—

24 “(1) IN GENERAL.—In addition to the other re-  
 25 quirements of this section and in accordance with

1 paragraph (2), each eligible institution shall ensure  
2 that, for each award year, each borrower enrolled in  
3 the institution who receives a Federal Direct Loan  
4 (other than a Federal Direct Consolidation Loan)  
5 and each parent borrower who is borrowing a Fed-  
6 eral Direct PLUS Loan made on behalf of a student  
7 who is enrolled in the institution, for such year, shall  
8 manually enter, either in writing or through elec-  
9 tronic means, the exact dollar amount of Federal Di-  
10 rect Loan funding that such borrower desires to bor-  
11 row for such year.

12 “(2) METHOD.—The eligible institution shall  
13 ensure that the borrower carries out the activity de-  
14 scribed in paragraph (1)—

15 “(A) in the case of a student borrower, in  
16 the course of the process used by the institution  
17 for students to accept a student loan award;

18 “(B) prior to the institution certifying a  
19 Federal Direct Loan (other than a Federal Di-  
20 rect Consolidation Loan), including a Federal  
21 Direct PLUS Loan made on behalf of a stu-  
22 dent, for disbursement to a borrower; and

23 “(C) in the case of a student borrower,  
24 after ensuring that the student has completed

1 all of the counseling requirements under sub-  
 2 section (l).”.

3 **SEC. 303. WORK STUDY.**

4 Section 485 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20  
 5 U.S.C. 1092), as amended by sections 301 and 302, is  
 6 further amended by adding at the end the following:

7 “(o) WORK STUDY.—If an institution provides a stu-  
 8 dent or a prospective student with a financial aid award  
 9 notification that includes work study, the institution shall  
 10 ensure that the notification includes an explanation that  
 11 any work study funds are not directly awarded to the stu-  
 12 dent or institution, and such amounts must be earned  
 13 through the student’s completion of work over time.”.

14 **TITLE IV—STREAMLINING AC-**  
 15 **COUNTABILITY AND VALUE**  
 16 **IN EDUCATION FOR STU-**  
 17 **DENTS**

18 **SEC. 401. LOAN REPAYMENT SIMPLIFICATION AND IN-**  
 19 **COME-DRIVEN REPAYMENT REFORM.**

20 Section 455 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20  
 21 U.S.C. 1087e) is amended—

22 (1) in subsection (d)—

23 (A) in paragraph (1)—

1 (i) in subparagraph (B), by inserting  
2 “not later than June 30, 2024,” before “a  
3 graduated”;

4 (ii) in subparagraph (C), by inserting  
5 “not later than June 30, 2024,” before  
6 “an extended”;

7 (iii) in subparagraph (D)—

8 (I) by inserting “not later than  
9 June 30, 2024,” before “an income  
10 contingent”; and

11 (II) by striking “and” after the  
12 semicolon;

13 (iv) in subparagraph (E)—

14 (I) by inserting “and not later  
15 than June 30, 2024,” after “begin-  
16 ning on July 1, 2009,”; and

17 (II) by striking the period at the  
18 end and inserting “; and”; and

19 (v) by adding at the end the following:

20 “(F) beginning on July 1, 2024, an income  
21 contingent repayment plan known as the ‘Re-  
22 vised Pay As You Earn Repayment plan’, con-  
23 sistent with subsection (e)(9).”;

24 (B) in paragraph (2), by striking “in sub-  
25 paragraph (A), (B), or (C) of paragraph (1)”

1 and inserting “in subparagraph (A) or (F) of  
2 paragraph (1)”;

3 (C) in paragraph (4), by inserting “not  
4 later than June 30, 2024, and” after “The Sec-  
5 retary may provide,”; and

6 (2) in subsection (e), by adding at the end the  
7 following:

8 “(9) REVISED PAY AS YOU EARN REPAYMENT  
9 PLAN.—

10 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall  
11 carry out a Revised Pay As You Earn Repay-  
12 ment plan in accordance with section  
13 685.209(c) of title 34, Code of Federal Regula-  
14 tions, as in effect on December 17, 2015, ex-  
15 cept as otherwise provided in this paragraph as  
16 follows:

17 “(i) A borrower may complete loan re-  
18 habilitation on a defaulted loan through  
19 making eligible payments in accordance  
20 with this paragraph for 9 consecutive  
21 months.

22 “(ii) A borrower who no longer wishes  
23 to repay under the Revised Pay As You  
24 Earn Repayment plan may change only to  
25 a standard repayment plan.

1           “(iii) In addition to that provided  
2           under paragraph (5)(iv) of such section  
3           685.209(e), a qualifying monthly payment  
4           may also include a month for which the  
5           borrower received—

6                   “(I) deferment under subsection  
7                   (f)(3) due to receiving treatment for  
8                   cancer;

9                   “(II) deferment under subsection  
10                  (f)(2) for rehabilitation training;

11                  “(III) deferment under sub-  
12                  section (f)(2) for unemployment;

13                  “(IV) deferment under subsection  
14                  (f)(2) for economic hardship, includ-  
15                  ing any period of deferment for Peace  
16                  Corps service;

17                  “(V) deferment under subsection  
18                  (f)(2) for military service;

19                  “(VI) deferment under subsection  
20                  (f)(2) for post-active duty service;

21                  “(VII) forbearance under section  
22                  428(c)(3)(A)(i)(III), for national serv-  
23                  ice;

24                  “(VIII) forbearance under section  
25                  685.205(a)(7) of title 34, Code of



1 Federal Regulations, for National  
2 Guard Duty;

3 “(IX) forbearance under section  
4 428(c)(3)(A)(i)(IV), for service for  
5 which the borrower would qualify for  
6 a partial repayment of his or her loan  
7 under the Student Loan Repayment  
8 Programs administered by the De-  
9 partment of Defense; or

10 “(X) administrative forbearance  
11 under paragraph (8) or (9) of section  
12 685.205(b) of title 34, Code of Fed-  
13 eral Regulations.

14 “(iv) A borrower shall be automati-  
15 cally enrolled in a Revised Pay As You  
16 Earn Repayment plan for a loan at 75  
17 days delinquent on such loan.

18 “(v) A borrower who missed quali-  
19 fying payments during a forbearance or  
20 deferment period not listed in clause (iii),  
21 shall have the opportunity to provide a  
22 back payment for the missed payments in  
23 order have those payments counted toward  
24 the 20-year or 25-year forgiveness period,  
25 except there shall be no opportunity to pro-

1           vide a back payment for periods of in-  
2           school deferment.

3           “(vi) For a borrower who is solely an  
4           undergraduate borrower—

5                   “(I) who has borrowed \$10,000  
6                   or less in total in loans under this  
7                   part, not including loan fees, the Sec-  
8                   retary may determine that the bor-  
9                   rower has met the loan forgiveness re-  
10                  quirements after 120 payments under  
11                  the Revised Pay As You Earn Repay-  
12                  ment plan;

13                   “(II) who has borrowed more  
14                   than \$10,000 but \$11,000 or less in  
15                   total in loans under this part, not in-  
16                   cluding loan fees, the Secretary may  
17                   determine that the borrower has met  
18                   the loan forgiveness requirements  
19                   after 132 payments under the Revised  
20                  Pay As You Earn Repayment plan;

21                   “(III) who has borrowed more  
22                   than \$11,000 but \$12,000 or less in  
23                   total in loans under this part, not in-  
24                   cluding loan fees, the Secretary may  
25                  determine that the borrower has met

1 the loan forgiveness requirements  
2 after 144 payments under the Revised  
3 Pay As You Earn Repayment plan;

4 “(IV) who has borrowed more  
5 than \$12,000 but \$13,000 or less in  
6 total in loans under this part, not in-  
7 cluding loan fees, the Secretary may  
8 determine that the borrower has met  
9 the loan forgiveness requirements  
10 after 156 payments under the Revised  
11 Pay As You Earn Repayment plan;

12 “(V) who has borrowed more  
13 than \$13,000 but \$14,000 or less in  
14 total in loans under this part, not in-  
15 cluding loan fees, the Secretary may  
16 determine that the borrower has met  
17 the loan forgiveness requirements  
18 after 168 payments under the Revised  
19 Pay As You Earn Repayment plan;

20 “(VI) who has borrowed more  
21 than \$14,000 but \$15,000 or less in  
22 total in loans under this part, not in-  
23 cluding loan fees, the Secretary may  
24 determine that the borrower has met  
25 the loan forgiveness requirements

1 after 180 payments under the Revised  
2 Pay As You Earn Repayment plan;

3 “(VII) who has borrowed more  
4 than \$15,000 but \$16,000 or less in  
5 total in loans under this part, not in-  
6 cluding loan fees, the Secretary may  
7 determine that the borrower has met  
8 the loan forgiveness requirements  
9 after 192 payments under the Revised  
10 Pay As You Earn Repayment plan;

11 “(VIII) who has borrowed more  
12 than \$16,000 but \$17,000 or less in  
13 total in loans under this part, not in-  
14 cluding loan fees, the Secretary may  
15 determine that the borrower has met  
16 the loan forgiveness requirements  
17 after 204 payments under the Revised  
18 Pay As You Earn Repayment plan;

19 “(IX) who has borrowed more  
20 than \$17,000 but \$18,000 or less in  
21 total in loans under this part, not in-  
22 cluding loan fees, the Secretary may  
23 determine that the borrower has met  
24 the loan forgiveness requirements  
25 after 216 payments under the Revised

1 Pay As You Earn Repayment plan;  
2 and

3 “(X) who has borrowed more  
4 than \$18,000 but \$19,000 or less in  
5 total in loans under this part, not in-  
6 cluding loan fees, the Secretary may  
7 determine that the borrower has met  
8 the loan forgiveness requirements  
9 after 228 payments under the Revised  
10 Pay As You Earn Repayment plan.

11 “(B) TRANSFER OF BORROWERS IN RE-  
12 PAYMENT.—Notwithstanding any other provi-  
13 sion of this Act, on July 1, 2024, the Secretary  
14 shall transfer each borrower who is in repay-  
15 ment on a loan made under this part under an  
16 income contingent repayment plan pursuant to  
17 subsection (d)(1)(D) to the Revised Pay As You  
18 Earn Repayment plan under this paragraph.”.

19 **SEC. 402. TAXPAYER AND CONSUMER PROTECTION ON STU-**  
20 **DENT LOANS.**

21 Section 487(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965  
22 (20 U.S.C. 1094(a)) is amended by adding at the end the  
23 following:

24 “(30)(A) The institution certifies that no funds  
25 available under this title may be used by an under-

1 graduate student for enrollment in an educational  
2 program offered by the institution that is described  
3 in subparagraph (B).

4 “(B) An educational program at an institution  
5 is described in this subparagraph if the program is  
6 a program—

7 “(i) in the case of a program that awards  
8 an associate’s degree or a lesser degree or cre-  
9 dential, in which the median earnings of stu-  
10 dents 6 years after the date of entry into the  
11 program who are no longer enrolled in the pro-  
12 gram and are working is, for not less than 2 of  
13 the 3 years preceding the date of the deter-  
14 mination, less than the median earnings of a  
15 working adult who is aged 25 to 34 with only  
16 a high school diploma or its recognized equiva-  
17 lent, as determined under subparagraph (C)  
18 and in accordance with subparagraph (D); or

19 “(ii) in the case of a program that awards  
20 a bachelor’s degree, in which the median earn-  
21 ings of students 10 years after the date of entry  
22 into the program who are no longer enrolled in  
23 the program and are working is, for not less  
24 than 2 of the 3 years preceding the date of the  
25 determination, less than the median earnings of

1 a working adult who is aged 25 to 34 with only  
2 a high school diploma or its recognized equiva-  
3 lent, as determined under subparagraph (C)  
4 and in accordance with subparagraph (D).

5 “(C) The median earnings of a working adult  
6 who is aged 25 to 34 with only a high school di-  
7 ploma or its recognized equivalent shall be based on  
8 data from the Census Bureau—

9 “(i) for the State in which the institution  
10 is located; or

11 “(ii) if fewer than 50 percent of the stu-  
12 dents enrolled in the institution reside in the  
13 State where the institution is located, for the  
14 entire United States.

15 “(D) For any year for which the programmatic  
16 cohort is fewer than 30 individuals, the Secretary  
17 shall—

18 “(i) first, aggregate additional years of  
19 programmatic data in order to achieve a cohort  
20 of at least 30 individuals;

21 “(ii) second, aggregate additional cohort  
22 years of programmatic data for degrees or cer-  
23 tificates of equivalent length in order to achieve  
24 a cohort of at least 30 individuals; and

1           “(iii) if such data cannot be aggregated,  
2           use an institution-based undergraduate-level  
3           measure, in lieu of a programmatic measure.

4           “(E) An educational program shall not lose eli-  
5           gibility under subparagraph (A) unless the institu-  
6           tion has had the opportunity to appeal the pro-  
7           grammatic median earnings of students working and  
8           not enrolled determination. During such appeal, the  
9           Secretary may permit the educational program to  
10          continue to participate in a program under this title.  
11          If an educational program continues to participate  
12          in a program under this title, and the institution’s  
13          appeal of the loss of eligibility is unsuccessful, the  
14          institution shall pay to the Secretary an amount  
15          equal to the amount of interest, and any related  
16          payments made by the Secretary (or which the Sec-  
17          retary is obligated to make) with respect to loans  
18          made under this title to students attending, or plan-  
19          ning to attend, that educational program during the  
20          pendency of such appeal.

21          “(31)(A) The institution certifies that no funds  
22          available under this title may be used by a graduate  
23          student for enrollment in an educational program of-  
24          fered by the institution that is described in subpara-  
25          graph (B).



1           “(B) An educational program at an institution  
2 is described in this subparagraph if the program is  
3 a program—

4           “(i) in the case of a program that awards  
5 a master’s degree or a lesser degree or creden-  
6 tial, in which the median earnings of students  
7 6 years after the date of entry into the program  
8 who are no longer enrolled in the program and  
9 are working is, for not less than 2 of the 3  
10 years preceding the date of the determination,  
11 less than the median earnings of a working  
12 adult who is aged 25 to 34 with only a bach-  
13 elor’s degree, as determined under subpara-  
14 graph (C) and in accordance with subparagraph  
15 (D); or

16           “(ii) in the case of program that awards a  
17 professional degree or doctoral degree, in which  
18 the median earnings of students 10 years after  
19 the date of entry into the program who are no  
20 longer enrolled in the program and are working  
21 is, for not less than 2 of the 3 years preceding  
22 the date of the determination, less than the me-  
23 dian earnings of a working adult who is aged  
24 25 to 34 with only a bachelor’s degree, as de-

1           terminated under subparagraph (C) and in ac-  
2           cordance with subparagraph (D).

3           “(C) The median earnings of a working adult  
4           who is aged 25 to 34 with only a bachelor’s degree  
5           shall be based on data from the Census Bureau—

6                   “(i) for the State in which the institution  
7                   is located; or

8                   “(ii) if fewer than 50 percent of the stu-  
9                   dents enrolled in the institution reside in the  
10                  State where the institution is located, for the  
11                  entire United States.

12          “(D) For any year for which the programmatic  
13          cohort is fewer than 30 individuals, the Secretary  
14          shall—

15                  “(i) first, aggregate additional years of  
16                  programmatic data in order to achieve a cohort  
17                  of at least 30 individuals;

18                  “(ii) second, aggregate additional cohort  
19                  years of programmatic data for degrees or cer-  
20                  tificates of equivalent length in order to achieve  
21                  a cohort of at least 30 individuals; and

22                  “(iii) if such data cannot be aggregated,  
23                  use an institution-based graduate-level measure,  
24                  in lieu of a programmatic measure.

1           “(E) An educational program shall not lose eli-  
2           gibility under subparagraph (A) unless the institu-  
3           tion has had the opportunity to appeal the pro-  
4           grammatic median earnings of students working and  
5           not enrolled determination. During such appeal, the  
6           Secretary may permit the educational program to  
7           continue to participate in a program under this title.  
8           If an educational program continues to participate  
9           in a program under title, and the institution’s appeal  
10          of the loss of eligibility is unsuccessful, the institu-  
11          tion shall pay to the Secretary an amount equal to  
12          the amount of interest, and any related payments  
13          made by the Secretary (or which the Secretary is ob-  
14          ligated to make) with respect to loans made under  
15          this title to students attending, or planning to at-  
16          tend, that educational program during the pendency  
17          of such appeal.”.

18 **SEC. 403. PHASE OUT OF INCOME-BASED REPAYMENT.**

19           Section 493C of the Higher Education Act of 1965  
20 (20 U.S.C. 1098e) is amended—

21           (1) in subsection (b)(1), by inserting “who en-  
22           ters repayment on such loan before July 1, 2024,  
23           and” after “a borrower of any loan made, insured,  
24           or guaranteed under part B or D (other than an ex-

1       cepted PLUS loan or excepted consolidation loan)”;

2       and

3               (2) in subsection (e)—

4                       (A) in the subsection heading by inserting

5                       “, AND BEFORE JULY 1, 2024” after “JULY 1,

6                       2014”; and

7                       (B) by inserting “, and before July 1,

8                       2024” after “July 1, 2014”.

9       **TITLE V—GRADUATE OPPOR-**  
 10       **TUNITY AND AFFORDABLE**  
 11       **LOANS**

12       **SEC. 501. LOAN LIMITS.**

13       Section 455 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20

14       U.S.C. 1087e) is amended—

15               (1) in subsection (a)—

16                       (A) in paragraph (3)(A)—

17                               (i) in the matter preceding clause (i),

18                               by striking “part B” and inserting “part

19                               B—”;

20                               (ii) beginning in the matter preceding

21                               clause (i), by striking “for any period” and

22                               all that follows through “professional stu-

23                               dent” and inserting the following:

1 “(i) for any period of instruction be-  
2 ginning on or after July 1, 2012, a grad-  
3 uate or professional student”; and

4 (iii) in clause (ii), by inserting “for  
5 any period of instruction beginning on July  
6 1, 2012, and ending on June 30, 2024  
7 (subject to paragraph (4)(C)),” before “the  
8 maximum annual”; and

9 (B) by adding at the end the following:

10 “(4) GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL ANNUAL  
11 AND AGGREGATE LIMITS FOR UNSUBSIDIZED STAF-  
12 FORD LOANS BEGINNING JULY 1, 2024.—

13 “(A) ANNUAL LIMITS BEGINNING JULY 1,  
14 2024.—Subject to subparagraph (C), beginning  
15 on July 1, 2024, the maximum annual amount  
16 of Federal Direct Unsubsidized Stafford  
17 loans—

18 “(i) a graduate student, who is not a  
19 professional student, may borrow in any  
20 academic year (as defined in section  
21 481(a)(2)) or its equivalent shall be  
22 \$20,500; and

23 “(ii) a professional student may bor-  
24 row in any academic year (as defined in

1 section 481(a)(2)) or its equivalent shall be  
2 \$40,500.

3 “(B) AGGREGATE LIMITS BEGINNING JULY  
4 1, 2024.—Subject to subparagraph (C), begin-  
5 ning on July 1, 2024, the maximum aggregate  
6 amount of Federal Direct Unsubsidized Staf-  
7 ford loans—

8 “(i) a graduate student, who is not a  
9 professional student, may borrow is  
10 \$65,000, in addition to the amount bor-  
11 rowed for undergraduate education; and

12 “(ii) a professional student may bor-  
13 row is \$130,000, in addition to the amount  
14 borrowed for undergraduate education.

15 “(C) PHASE OUT PROVISIONS.—Notwith-  
16 standing the date of the applicability of the lim-  
17 its set forth in this paragraph, an eligible grad-  
18 uate student, including a professional student,  
19 who received a disbursement of a Federal Di-  
20 rect Unsubsidized Stafford loan after June 30,  
21 2023, and before July 1, 2024, for the 2023–  
22 2024 award year, may receive a Federal Direct  
23 Unsubsidized Stafford loan for the 2024–2025  
24 award year in amounts that are subject to the  
25 annual and aggregate loan limits applicable

1 prior to July 1, 2024, if the borrower did not  
2 graduate prior to the 2024–2025 award year.

3 “(D) DEFINITIONS.—In this paragraph:

4 “(i) GRADUATE STUDENT.—The term  
5 ‘graduate student’ means a student en-  
6 rolled in a program at the  
7 postbaccalaureate level, such as a  
8 postbaccalaureate certificate, a master’s  
9 degree, or a doctor’s degree.

10 “(ii) PROFESSIONAL STUDENT.—The  
11 term ‘professional student’ means a stu-  
12 dent enrolled in a doctor’s degree-profes-  
13 sional practice program.

14 “(iii) POSTBACCALAUREATE CERTIFI-  
15 CATE; MASTER’S DEGREE; DOCTOR’S DE-  
16 GREE; DOCTOR’S DEGREE PROFESSIONAL-  
17 PRACTICE.—The terms ‘postbaccalaureate  
18 certificate’, ‘master’s degree’, ‘doctor’s de-  
19 gree’, and ‘doctor’s degree professional-  
20 practice’ shall have the meaning provided  
21 in the 2022–2023 glossary of the Inte-  
22 grated Postsecondary Education Data Sys-  
23 tem (OMB NO. 1859–0582 v. 30).

1           “(5) TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY TO MAKE  
2 FEDERAL DIRECT PLUS LOANS TO GRADUATE AND  
3 PROFESSIONAL STUDENTS.—

4           “(A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any  
5 other provision of law, for any period of instruc-  
6 tion beginning on or after July 1, 2024, a grad-  
7 uate student (including a professional student)  
8 shall not be eligible to receive a Federal Direct  
9 PLUS Loan under this part for enrollment in  
10 a program of graduate or doctor’s degree pro-  
11 fessional-practice education.

12           “(B) PHASE OUT PROVISIONS.—Not later  
13 than 30 days after the date of enactment of the  
14 Lowering Education Costs and Debt Act, each  
15 institution of higher education that enrolls  
16 graduate students or professional students shall  
17 notify prospective and enrolled graduate stu-  
18 dents and professional students that the Fed-  
19 eral Direct PLUS Loan program will end for  
20 graduate students and professional students on  
21 June 30, 2024.

22           “(C) DEFINITIONS.—The definitions in  
23 paragraph (4)(D) shall apply to this paragraph.

24           “(6) INSTITUTIONALLY DETERMINED LIMITS.—  
25 Notwithstanding any other provision of this part, an



1 eligible institution (at the discretion of a financial  
2 aid administrator at the institution) may prorate or  
3 limit the amount of a loan a student who is enrolled  
4 in a program of study at that institution for a pe-  
5 riod of instruction beginning on or after July 1,  
6 2024, may borrow under this part for an academic  
7 year, as long as any proration or limit is applied  
8 consistently to all borrowers entering such program  
9 of study.”.

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