

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 67

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MAY 14, 2020

Sponsored by:

Senator THOMAS H. KEAN, JR.

District 21 (Morris, Somerset and Union)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senator Corrado

SYNOPSIS

Urges US President and Congress to establish student loan forgiveness program for certain doctors, nurses, and emergency medical services employees.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 5/14/2020)

1 **A SENATE RESOLUTION** urging the United States President and
2 Congress to establish a student loan forgiveness program for
3 certain doctors, nurses, and emergency medical services
4 employees.
5
6 **WHEREAS**, Doctors, nurses, and emergency medical services (EMS)
7 employees are essential to the effective functioning of the United
8 States healthcare system; and
9 **WHEREAS**, Doctors, nurses, and EMS employees exemplify
10 selflessness and bravery while responding to, caring for, and
11 protecting American citizens who are struggling with illnesses and
12 injuries; and
13 **WHEREAS**, The day-to-day jobs of doctors, nurses, and EMS
14 employees are stressful, and in many cases, these employees may
15 risk their lives to care for the patients around them; and
16 **WHEREAS**, The already stressful job of doctors, nurses, and EMS
17 employees is exacerbated during crises, such as the current global
18 coronavirus pandemic; and
19 **WHEREAS**, Coronavirus, also known as COVID-19, is a respiratory
20 illness that was first identified during an outbreak in Wuhan, China
21 and has since expanded across various continents including Asia,
22 Europe, North America, South America, Africa, and Australia; and
23 **WHEREAS**, There have been millions of cases of COVID-19
24 confirmed worldwide with cases in the United States and New
25 Jersey, and the number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 is
26 expected to rise into the future; and
27 **WHEREAS**, The global COVID-19 pandemic has placed additional
28 pressures on doctors, nurses, and EMS employees as these
29 individuals are the nation's frontline defense against the disease;
30 and
31 **WHEREAS**, Doctors, nurses, and EMS employees, during the COVID-
32 19 pandemic, continue to provide professional care services with
33 limited resources and shortages of protective equipment, such as
34 N95 face masks, and they continue to remain emotionally tough as
35 many of their patients become ill or pass away around them; and
36 **WHEREAS**, COVID-19 is a highly contagious disease and, in many
37 cases, can be dangerous and fatal; doctors, nurses, and EMS
38 employees continue to risk their lives daily working amongst this
39 life-threatening disease; and
40 **WHEREAS**, A growing number of healthcare professionals have
41 contracted COVID-19 while performing their jobs; some of these
42 infected healthcare professionals have been placed in critical
43 condition or have even died due to COVID-19-related
44 complications; and
45 **WHEREAS**, Doctors, nurses, and EMS employees will continue to risk
46 their lives throughout the remainder of the global COVID-19
47 pandemic, but their contribution to society will not end; these

1 healthcare professionals will continue to protect American citizens
2 from injuries and illnesses into the future; and
3 **WHEREAS**, Healthcare professionals, such as doctors, nurses, and
4 EMS employees, undertake many years of additional schooling in
5 order to serve in their professional roles; this lengthy education
6 results in large student loan debts; and
7 **WHEREAS**, The Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program (PSLF)
8 may apply to doctors, nurses, and EMS employees who work full-
9 time for federal, state, tribal, or local government agencies and to
10 those who work for non-profit organizations; however, it does not
11 apply to doctors, nurses, and EMS employees who cannot meet this
12 criteria, such as those who work for private organizations; and
13 **WHEREAS**, The bravery, selflessness, and ceaseless work ethic of the
14 nation's healthcare professionals, during the COVID-19 pandemic,
15 should be rewarded by ensuring that all doctors, nurses, and EMS
16 employees involved in the provision of services during the
17 pandemic are eligible to receive federal student loan forgiveness;
18 now, therefore,

19
20 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate of the State of New Jersey:*

21
22 1. This House urges the United States President and Congress to
23 establish a student loan forgiveness program for doctors, nurses,
24 and emergency medical services employees who provide services
25 during the COVID-19 pandemic.

26
27 2. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State,
28 shall be transmitted by the Secretary of the Senate to the President
29 of the United States, the Majority and Minority Leaders of the United
30 States Senate, the Speaker and Minority Leader of the United States
31 House of Representatives, and the members of the New Jersey
32 congressional delegation.

33

34 **STATEMENT**

35

36 This resolution urges Congress to establish a student loan
37 forgiveness program for doctors, nurses, and emergency medical
38 services employees that provide services during the COVID-19
39 pandemic.

40 Doctors, nurses, and EMS employees respond to, care for, and
41 protect American citizens from illness and injury every day.
42 However, the already stressful job of doctors, nurses, and EMS
43 employees is exacerbated during crises, such as the COVID-19
44 pandemic. COVID-19 has increased the workloads of healthcare
45 professionals and has forced doctors, nurses, and EMS employees
46 to risk their lives while providing professional care services for
47 others amidst this dangerous disease. Healthcare professionals
48 continue to protect and care for their patients, during the COVID-19

1 pandemic, amongst limited resources and shortages of protective
2 equipment.

3 The bravery, courageousness, selflessness, and ceaseless work
4 ethic of the nation's healthcare professionals, during the COVID-19
5 pandemic, should be rewarded. Although there is no reward that
6 equates to the risks these healthcare professionals have taken,
7 during the COVID-19 pandemic, the United States can provide
8 monetary aid to these healthcare professionals, which will help
9 minimize the massive student loan debts these healthcare
10 professionals have accumulated over the years as a result of lengthy
11 education. Establishing a student loan forgiveness program for
12 doctors, nurses, and EMS employees who provided services during
13 the COVID-19 pandemic will reduce financial stressors among
14 these hardworking healthcare professionals and show them that the
15 United States acknowledges and appreciates their hard work during
16 this challenging time.