

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2186

To authorize borrowers of loans under the William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program to modify the interest rate of such loans to be equal to the interest rate for such loans at the time of modification.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 9, 2019

Mr. POCAN (for himself, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. PAYNE, Ms. JAYAPAL, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. BEYER, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. COHEN, Mr. RUSH, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. SCHRADER, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Ms. MENG, Mr. WELCH, Mr. LOEBSACK, Mr. PETERS, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Ms. MOORE, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. MALINOWSKI, and Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor

A BILL

To authorize borrowers of loans under the William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program to modify the interest rate of such loans to be equal to the interest rate for such loans at the time of modification.

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 “Student Loan Refi-
5 nancing Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. BORROWER MODIFICATION OF INTEREST RATES**
2 **UNDER THE WILLIAM D. FORD FEDERAL DI-**
3 **RECT LOAN PROGRAM.**

4 Section 455(b) of the Higher Education Act of 1965
5 (20 U.S.C. 1087e(b)) is amended by adding at the end
6 the following new paragraph:

7 “(11) BORROWER MODIFICATION OF INTEREST
8 RATE.—

9 “(A) MODIFICATION.—Notwithstanding
10 the preceding paragraphs of this subsection, the
11 borrower of a Federal Direct Stafford Loan, a
12 Federal Direct Unsubsidized Stafford Loan, a
13 Federal Direct PLUS Loan, or a Federal Di-
14 rect Consolidation Loan may elect to modify the
15 interest rate of the loan to be equal to the in-
16 terest rate that would be applicable to such loan
17 if such loan were first disbursed (or in the case
18 of a Federal Direct Consolidation Loan, first
19 applied for) on the date on which such borrower
20 elects to modify the interest rate of such loan.

21 “(B) FIXED RATE.—Except as provided in
22 subparagraph (C), an interest rate elected
23 under subparagraph (A) for a loan shall be
24 fixed for the life of the loan.

25 “(C) CONTINUING AUTHORITY TO MOD-
26 IFY.—A borrower may elect to modify the inter-

1 est rate of a loan in accordance with subpara-
2 graph (A)—

3 “(i) at any time during the life of the
4 loan; and

5 “(ii) any number of times during the
6 life of the loan, except that a borrower may
7 not modify the interest rate of the loan
8 more than once in a six-month period.”.

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