

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3150

To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide for interest-free deferment on student loans for borrowers serving in certain medical or dental internships or residency programs.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 5, 2019

Mr. WATKINS (for himself and Mrs. LEE of Nevada) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor

A BILL

To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide for interest-free deferment on student loans for borrowers serving in certain medical or dental internships or residency programs.

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 “Rural and Underserved
5 Residencies to Attract Long-term Physicians Act” or the
6 “RURAL Physicians Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. DEFERMENT DURING A MEDICAL OR DENTAL IN-**
2 **TERNSHIP OR RESIDENCY PROGRAM.**

3 Section 455(f) of the Higher Education Act of 1965
4 (20 U.S.C. 1087e(f)) is amended—

5 (1) in paragraph (1), in the matter preceding
6 subparagraph (A), by striking “A borrower” and in-
7 serting “Except as provided in paragraph (6), a bor-
8 rower”;

9 (2) in paragraph (2)(A)—

10 (A) by striking “or” at the end of clause

11 (i);

12 (B) by striking the matter following clause

13 (ii);

14 (C) in clause (ii), by striking the comma at
15 the end and inserting “; or”; and

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

17 “(iii) is serving in a medical or dental
18 internship or residency program that—

19 “(I) at the beginning of such
20 service is in—

21 “(aa) a health professional
22 shortage area designated under
23 section 332 of the Public Health
24 Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254e); or

25 “(bb) a medical facility lo-
26 cated in a census tract with a

1 Rural Urban Commuting Area
2 code 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, or 10; or
3 “(II) is in a medical facility of
4 the Department of Veterans Affairs;”;
5 and

6 (3) by adding at the end the following:

7 “(6) SPECIAL RULE FOR CERTAIN IN SCHOOL
8 DEFERMENT.—Notwithstanding any other provision
9 of this Act, a borrower described in paragraph
10 (2)(A)(iii) shall be eligible for a deferment, during
11 which periodic installments of principal need not be
12 paid and interest shall not acerue on any loan made
13 to the borrower under this part.”.

○