

116TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 4389

To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide additional amounts of loan forgiveness to teachers of English learners, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 18, 2019

Mr. LANGEVIN (for himself, Mr. ESPAILLAT, and Mr. GRIJALVA) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor

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## A BILL

To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide additional amounts of loan forgiveness to teachers of English learners, 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 “Supporting Providers  
5 of English Language Learning Act” or the “SPELL Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. TEACHERS OF ENGLISH LEARNERS.**

7 (a) LOAN FORGIVENESS FOR TEACHERS.—Section  
8 428J(c)(3) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20  
9 U.S.C. 1078–10(e)(3)) is amended—

1           (1) in the paragraph heading by striking  
2           “MATHEMATICS, SCIENCE, OR SPECIAL EDUCATION”  
3           and inserting “MATHEMATICS, SCIENCE, SPECIAL  
4           EDUCATION, OR ENGLISH LANGUAGE EDUCATION”;

5           (2) in subparagraph (A)(ii) by striking “and”  
6           at the end;

7           (3) in subparagraph (B)(iii) by striking the pe-  
8           riod at the end and inserting “; and”; and

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

10           “(C) an elementary school or secondary  
11           school teacher—

12                   “(i) who meets the requirements of  
13                   subsection (b);

14                   “(ii) whose qualifying employment for  
15                   purposes of such subsection is as a teacher  
16                   of English learners (as that term is defined  
17                   in section 8101 of the Elementary and  
18                   Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20  
19                   U.S.C. 7801)) whose primary responsibility  
20                   is to teach such learners; and

21                   “(iii) who, as certified by the chief ad-  
22                   ministrative officer of the public or non-  
23                   profit private elementary school or sec-  
24                   ondary school in which the borrower is em-  
25                   ployed, or, in the case of a teacher who is

1 employed by an educational service agency,  
2 as certified by the chief administrative offi-  
3 cer of such agency, is teaching English  
4 learners who correspond with the bor-  
5 rower’s training and has demonstrated  
6 knowledge and teaching skills in the con-  
7 tent areas of the elementary school or sec-  
8 ondary school curriculum that the bor-  
9 rower is teaching.”.

10 (b) LOAN CANCELLATION FOR TEACHERS.—Section  
11 460(c)(3) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.  
12 1087j(c)(3)) is amended—

13 (1) in the paragraph heading by striking  
14 “MATHEMATICS, SCIENCE, OR SPECIAL EDUCATION”  
15 and inserting “MATHEMATICS, SCIENCE, SPECIAL  
16 EDUCATION, OR ENGLISH LANGUAGE EDUCATION”;

17 (2) in subparagraph (A)(ii) by striking “and”  
18 at the end;

19 (3) in subparagraph (B)(iii) by striking the pe-  
20 riod at the end and inserting “; and”; and

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

22 “(C) an elementary school or secondary  
23 school teacher—

24 “(i) who meets the requirements of  
25 subsection (b);

1           “(ii) whose qualifying employment for  
2 purposes of such subsection is as a teacher  
3 of English learners (as that term is defined  
4 in section 8101 of the Elementary and  
5 Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20  
6 U.S.C. 7801)) whose primary responsibility  
7 is to teach such learners; and

8           “(iii) who, as certified by the chief ad-  
9 ministrative officer of the public or non-  
10 profit private elementary school or sec-  
11 ondary school in which the borrower is em-  
12 ployed, or, in the case of a teacher who is  
13 employed by an educational service agency,  
14 as certified by the chief administrative offi-  
15 cer of such agency, is teaching English  
16 learners who correspond with the bor-  
17 rower’s training and has demonstrated  
18 knowledge and teaching skills in the con-  
19 tent areas of the elementary school or sec-  
20 ondary school curriculum that the bor-  
21 rower is teaching.”.

22 **SEC. 3. APPLICABILITY.**

23           The amendments made by section 1 shall take effect  
24 on the date of the enactment of this Act and shall apply  
25 with respect to individuals who are eligible to receive

1 teacher loan forgiveness under section 428J of the Higher  
2 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1078–10) or teacher  
3 loan cancellation under section 460 of such Act (20 U.S.C.  
4 1087j) after such date.

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