

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 460

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

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 24, 2023

Mr. ESPAILLAT (for himself, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. CARSON, Ms. CROCKETT, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Ms. NORTON, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. EVANS, and Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

A BILL

To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide additional amounts of loan forgiveness to teachers of English learners and teachers of bilingual and dual language immersion students, 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”.

1 **SEC. 2. TEACHERS OF ENGLISH LEARNERS, BILINGUAL,**
2 **AND DUAL LANGUAGE STUDENTS.**

3 (a) LOAN FORGIVENESS FOR TEACHERS.—Section
4 428J(c)(3) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20
5 U.S.C. 1078–10(c)(3)) is amended—

6 (1) in the paragraph heading by striking
7 “MATHEMATICS, SCIENCE, OR SPECIAL EDUCATION”
8 and inserting “MATHEMATICS, SCIENCE, SPECIAL
9 EDUCATION, OR ENGLISH LANGUAGE EDUCATION”;

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

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

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

15 “(C) an elementary school or secondary
16 school teacher—

17 “(i) who meets the requirements of
18 subsection (b);

19 “(ii) whose qualifying employment for
20 purposes of such subsection is—

21 “(I) as a teacher of English
22 learners (as that term is defined in
23 section 8101 of the Elementary and
24 Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20
25 U.S.C. 7801)) whose primary respon-
26 sibility is to teach such learners; or

1 “(II) as a bilingual or dual lan-
2 guage immersion teacher; and

3 “(iii) who, as certified by the chief ad-
4 ministrative officer of the public or non-
5 profit private elementary school or sec-
6 ondary school in which the borrower is em-
7 ployed, or, in the case of a teacher who is
8 employed by an educational service agency,
9 as certified by the chief administrative offi-
10 cer of such agency—

11 “(I) is teaching English learners
12 or bilingual or dual language immer-
13 sion students who correspond with the
14 borrower’s training; and

15 “(II) has demonstrated knowl-
16 edge and teaching skills in the content
17 areas of the elementary school or sec-
18 ondary school curriculum that the
19 borrower is teaching.”.

20 (b) LOAN CANCELLATION FOR TEACHERS.—Section
21 460(e)(3) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
22 1087j(e)(3)) is amended—

23 (1) in the paragraph heading by striking
24 “MATHEMATICS, SCIENCE, OR SPECIAL EDUCATION”

1 and inserting “MATHEMATICS, SCIENCE, SPECIAL
2 EDUCATION, OR ENGLISH LANGUAGE EDUCATION”;

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

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

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

8 “(C) an elementary school or secondary
9 school teacher—

10 “(i) who meets the requirements of
11 subsection (b);

12 “(ii) whose qualifying employment for
13 purposes of such subsection is—

14 “(I) as a teacher of English
15 learners (as that term is defined in
16 section 8101 of the Elementary and
17 Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20
18 U.S.C. 7801)) whose primary respon-
19 sibility is to teach such learners; or

20 “(II) as a bilingual or dual lan-
21 guage immersion teacher; and

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

1 employed, or, in the case of a teacher who is
2 employed by an educational service agency,
3 as certified by the chief administrative offi-
4 cer of such agency—

5 “(I) is teaching English learners
6 or bilingual or dual language immer-
7 sion students who correspond with the
8 borrower’s training; and

9 “(II) has demonstrated knowl-
10 edge and teaching skills in the content
11 areas of the elementary school or sec-
12 ondary school curriculum that the
13 borrower is teaching.”.

14 **SEC. 3. APPLICABILITY.**

15 The amendments made by section 2 shall take effect
16 on the date of the enactment of this Act and shall apply
17 with respect to individuals who are eligible to receive
18 teacher loan forgiveness under section 428J of the Higher
19 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1078–10) or teacher
20 loan cancellation under section 460 of such Act (20 U.S.C.
21 1087j) after such date.

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