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(Original Signature of Member)

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. _____

To direct the Secretary of Education to establish a Public Service Educational Assistance Program to provide educational assistance to the dependents of public service employees, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. FIGURES introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Education to establish a Public Service Educational Assistance Program to provide educational assistance to the dependents of public service employees, 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 “Public Service Edu-
5 cational Assistance Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE EDU-**
2 **CATIONAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.**

3 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall establish
4 a Public Service Educational Assistance Program to pro-
5 vide educational assistance to each dependent of each pub-
6 lic service employee who, on or after the effective date of
7 this Act, has at least 20 years of service as a public service
8 employee, in the aggregate, and who was a public service
9 employee on the date of enactment of this Act, or began
10 service as a public service employee after the date of enact-
11 ment of this Act.

12 (b) EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE.—Educational assist-
13 ance provided to a dependent under this Act—

14 (1) shall be in an amount that covers the cost
15 of tuition, fees, and books for a program of study at
16 an applicable postsecondary educational institution
17 located in a State where a dependent is eligible to
18 receive in-State tuition; and

19 (2) may be provided for not longer than 4 aca-
20 demic years.

21 **SEC. 3. COORDINATION WITH OTHER FEDERAL BENEFITS.**

22 (a) CONCURRENT BENEFITS.—A dependent may re-
23 ceive educational assistance under this Act concurrently
24 with other forms of Federal student aid, including grants
25 and loans under title IV of the Higher Education Act of

1 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070 et seq.), and other postsecondary
2 education benefits under Federal, State, and local law.

3 (b) NO EFFECT ON RETIREMENT OR OTHER BENE-
4 FITS.—Educational assistance provided under this Act
5 shall not be considered wages or compensation for pur-
6 poses of determining eligibility for, or the amount of, any
7 retirement or other employment-related benefit, except as
8 otherwise provided by law.

9 (c) TAX TREATMENT.—Educational assistance pro-
10 vided under this Act shall be exempt from taxation under
11 the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

12 **SEC. 4. REGULATIONS.**

13 The Secretary shall promulgate such regulations as
14 are necessary to carry out this Act.

15 **SEC. 5. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

16 This Act shall take effect on the date that is 1 year
17 after the date of enactment of this Act.

18 **SEC. 6. DEFINITIONS.**

19 In this Act:

20 (1) APPLICABLE POSTSECONDARY EDU-
21 CATIONAL INSTITUTION.—The term “applicable
22 postsecondary educational institution” means—

23 (A) a public institution of higher edu-
24 cation; or

1 (B) a public education or training program
2 that leads to a recognized postsecondary cre-
3 dential.

4 (2) DEPENDENT.—The term “dependent” has
5 the meaning given such term in section 152 of the
6 Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (determined by sub-
7 stituting “26” for “19” in subsection (c)(3)(A)(i)
8 thereof and without regard to subsection
9 (c)(3)(A)(ii) thereof).

10 (3) EDUCATOR OR TEACHER.—The term “edu-
11 cator or teacher” means an individual who is not an
12 elected official and who is employed at a public ele-
13 mentary school, a public secondary school, a public
14 school system, a State educational agency, or a local
15 educational agency.

16 (4) ELEMENTARY SCHOOL; LOCAL EDU-
17 CATIONAL AGENCY; SECONDARY SCHOOL; STATE
18 EDUCATIONAL AGENCY.—The terms “elementary
19 school; local educational agency; secondary school;
20 State educational agency” have the meanings given
21 such terms in section 8101 of the Elementary and
22 Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

23 (5) FIRST RESPONDER.—The term “first re-
24 sponder” includes a law enforcement officer or fire-
25 fighter, including—

1 (A) an employee of a government prosecu-
2 torial agency or a public defender;

3 (B) a public safety telecommunicator, in-
4 cluding a 911 operator or a fire dispatcher;

5 (C) an emergency medical services mem-
6 ber;

7 (D) an employee of the Federal Emergency
8 Management Agency;

9 (E) an employee of a State, local, or tribal
10 emergency management agency; or

11 (F) a Department of Energy nuclear cou-
12 rier or emergency response team member.

13 (6) FULL-TIME.—The term “full-time” means
14 an employee who is employed at least 40 hours in
15 a workweek.

16 (7) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The
17 term “institution of higher education” has the
18 meaning given such term in section 102 of the High-
19 er Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1002).

20 (8) PUBLIC SERVICE EMPLOYEE.—The term
21 “public service employee” means an employee who
22 works full-time—

23 (A) as a first responder;

24 (B) as an educator or teacher; or

25 (C) as a social worker.

1 (9) RECOGNIZED POSTSECONDARY CREDEN-
2 TIAL.—The term “recognized postsecondary creden-
3 tial” has the meaning given such term in section 3
4 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act
5 (29 U.S.C. 3102).

6 (10) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary”
7 means the Secretary of Education.

8 (11) SOCIAL WORKER.—The term “social work-
9 er” means an employee of a government entity that
10 provides mental health services or child welfare serv-
11 ices.