



SHOMARI C. FIGURES

UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE
SECOND CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF ALABAMA

Public Service Educational Assistance Act

Background:

Educators inspire the next generation. First responders answer the call during our communities' most difficult moments. Social workers support individuals, families, and communities, often under extraordinary circumstances. These public servants strengthen the fabric of our communities, and their families share in the sacrifices that accompany these demanding roles. Dependents of public service employees often experience the effects of long hours, financial constraints, and the emotional toll that can accompany these professions.

The **Public Service Educational Assistance Act** recognizes the contributions of educators, first responders, and social workers by providing educational assistance to their dependents. By helping families access affordable postsecondary education, this legislation would expand economic opportunity for the next generation. Congressman Figures is joined in introducing this legislation by Senator Cory Booker, Congresswoman Jahana Hayes, Congressman Mike Ezell. This legislation is endorsed by the International Association of Firefighters, Major City Chiefs Association, and the National Association of Social Workers.

What the Bill Does:

The Public Service Educational Assistance Act establishes a federal educational assistance program covering the full cost of postsecondary education for dependents of educators, first responders, and social workers who have completed at least 20 years of qualifying service.

This Bill Seeks To:

- Cover the full cost of postsecondary education and training opportunities for the dependents of educators, first responders, and social workers.
- Expand economic opportunities and strengthen the next generation by creating greater opportunities for the dependents of public service employees who have dedicated their careers to serving their communities.

Key Provisions:

- **Eligibility:** Dependents of public service employees (full-time educators, first responders, and social workers) with at least 20 years of qualifying service.
- **Covered Costs:** The program would cover the full cost of tuition, fees, and books for eligible post-secondary educational institutions and qualifying education or training programs located in the dependent's state of residence or domicile.
- **Duration:** Eligible dependents may receive assistance for up to four years before the dependent reaches age 26.
- **Coordination with Other Aid:** Dependents remain eligible for Public Student Loan Forgiveness and other applicable federal, state, and local loan repayment, forgiveness, cancellation, or discharge programs.