



## 115<sup>th</sup> Congress and Legislation Impacting Higher Education

Educational debt negatively impacts veterinary students and the veterinary profession. As congress works to reauthorize the Higher Education Act, AVMA is urging lawmakers to be responsive to the needs of veterinary student borrowers. To that end, AVMA is working to advance legislation to:

- Preserve Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program
- Establish federal refinancing option
- Eliminate origination fees
- Lower interest rates
- Maintain federal student loan borrowing limits
- Increase awareness of income-driven repayment plans
- Restore subsidized Stafford Loans
- Maintain Perkins Loan Program
- Increase financial literacy

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*Summaries of higher education bills introduced in the 115<sup>th</sup> Congress as of Dec. 31, 2017.*

### Comprehensive HEA Reauthorization bills

Legislative proposals that seek to comprehensively reauthorize the Higher Education Act.

#### **H.R. 4508, PROSPER Act – Promoting Real Opportunity, Success, and Prosperity Act**

Sponsor: Foxx (R-NC)

Cosponsors: 1 (OD, 1R)

Introduced: 12/1/2017. Passed by  
Education & Workforce Committee  
12/7/2017

Status: Awaits action by full House

AVMA Position: None

The PROSPER Act is a comprehensive HEA reauthorization bill that would dramatically alter student aid programs.

## Student Financial Aid

Legislative proposals that seek to preserve, strengthen, enhance, improve, or modify student financial aid programs.

### **H.R. 2526, POSTGRAD Act – Protecting Our Students by Terminating Graduate Rates that Add to Debt Act**

Sponsor: Chu (D-CA)  
Cosponsors: 34 (34D, 0R)  
Introduced: 5/18/2017  
Referral: Education & Workforce  
AVMA Position: Support

Restores the subsidy while in school for Federal Direct Stafford Loans borrowed by veterinary and other graduate and professional students thereby reducing the overall burden. Currently graduate and professional students are required to pay interest on their federal loans while in school. If veterinary students were eligible for Direct Subsidized Loans, the federal government would pay the interest on those loans while they are in school, for six months after they leave school and during a period of deferment. **Note:** Passage of the Budget Control Act of 2011 eliminated access to federally subsidized loans for all graduate and professional students.

### **H.R. 3572, Making College More Affordable Act**

Sponsor: Cicilline (D-RI)  
Cosponsors: 6 (6D, 0R)  
Introduced: 7/28/2017  
Referral: Education & Workforce  
AVMA Position: Monitor

Eliminates undergraduate eligibility for Federal Direct Stafford Loans and instead create the "Federal Interest Free Education Loan," where borrowers would repay their loan through mandated automatic deductions from pre-tax income. The new loan program would have an aggregate limit of \$90,000 over four years only. A borrower may consolidate any Federal Direct Loan into the new loan program. Borrowers would repay this loan based on a percentage of their income over the course of 30 years, starting at 4% for those borrowers earning less than \$100,000 and increasing progressively with a cap at 10% for borrowers making over \$150,000. No payment would be due if a borrower's income is below roughly 337% of the federal poverty line (currently about \$40,000 for an individual). In addition, no interest accrues on the loan unless "a borrower is not earning taxable income due to professional negligence, professional incompetence, or malicious action on the part of the borrower." The remaining loan balance would be canceled after 300 monthly payments (25 years), and the balance canceled would be subject to income tax. **NOTE:** The bill does not pertain to graduate-professional student borrowers.

### **H.R. 3835, Eliminating the Hidden Student Loan Tax**

Sponsor: Davis (D-CA)  
Cosponsors: 0 (0D, 0R)  
Introduced: 9/26/2017  
Referral: Education & Workforce  
AVMA Position: Support

Eliminates origination fees assessed for Federal Direct Loans.

### **H.R. 3346, Student Opportunity Act**

Sponsor: Lawson (D-FL)  
Cosponsors: 12 (12D, 0R)  
Introduced: 7/20/2017  
Referral: Education & Workforce,  
Ways & Means

Eliminates origination fees for federal student loans, creates a new loan refinancing program for loans made under the Direct Loan Program and the FFEL Program, and lowers interest rates; and exempts loan forgiveness and discharge from gross income for income tax purposes. Refinanced federal student loans disbursed before

AVMA Position: Support

7/1/10 would have an administrative fee of .5% and a fixed interest rate of the most recent 10-year Treasury note plus .5%. For loans issued after 7/1/18, the interest rate for undergraduates would be equal to the 10-year Treasury note plus .5% or 8.25%. For Federal Direct Unsubsidized Stafford Loans for grad-professional students, the interest rate would be equal to the June 10-year Treasury note plus .5% or 9.5%. For PLUS loans, the interest rate would be equal to the June 10-year Treasury note plus .5% or 10.5%. The IRS currently taxes federal student loan amounts that are forgiven through income-based repayment plans. This often leaves borrowers with a significant tax bill at the end of their 10 or 20-year or various repayment periods.

### **H.R. 2482 / S. 1808, Federal Perkins Loan Program Extension Act**

House Sponsor: Stefanik (R-NY)  
Cosponsors: 130 (107D, 23R)  
Introduced: 5/17/2017  
Referral: Education & Workforce  
AVMA Position: Support

Extends Federal Perkins Loan Program for two additional years by moving its authorization expiration from Sept. 30, 2017, to Sept. 30, 2019. Graduate and professional students would regain eligibility for a year before becoming ineligible again the following year.

Senate Sponsor: Baldwin (D-WI)  
Cosponsors: 19 (15D, 4R)  
Introduced: 9/14/2017  
Referral: Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions  
AVMA Position: Support

### **H.R. 1880, College for All Act / S. 806, College for All Act**

House Sponsor: Pramilla (D-WA)  
Cosponsors: 33 (33D, 0R)  
Introduced: 4/4/2017  
Referral: Education & Workforce  
AVMA Position: Support

Creates a grant program to states to eliminate tuition at public 4-year colleges and universities and tribal colleges for students from a family making \$125,000 or less.

Cuts interest rates and imposes an interest rate cap of 5% for undergraduate borrowers and 8.25% for graduate-professional students and parent borrowers.

Senate Sponsor: Sanders (I-VT)  
Cosponsors: 7 (7D, 0R)  
Introduced: 4/3/2017  
Referral: Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions  
AVMA Position: Support

Permits federal refinancing at the current interest rates.

### **S. 1822, A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code to permit amounts paid for programs to obtain a recognized postsecondary credential or occupational license**

Senate Sponsor: Klobuchar (D-MN)  
Cosponsors: 5 (5D, 0R)  
Introduced: 9/14/2017  
Referral: Finance  
AVMA Position: None

Amends the Internal Revenue Code, with respect to qualified tuition programs (known as 529 plans), to allow distributions from the plans to be used for expenses required for programs to obtain a recognized postsecondary credential or occupational license. A "recognized postsecondary credential" is a credential consisting of an industry-recognized certificate or certification, a certificate of completion of an apprenticeship, a license recognized by the state involved or federal government, or an associate or baccalaureate degree.

## **Legislation pertaining to Loan Repayment or Forgiveness, Consolidation, Refinancing, and Rehabilitation**

Legislative proposals that seek to establish federal repayment and forgiveness programs, modify or establish repayment options, establish refinancing, modify consolidation, and provide for loan rehabilitation.

### **H.R. 1614, Student Loan Refinancing Act**

House Sponsor: Pocan (D-WI)

Cosponsors: 50 (48D, 2R)

Introduced: 3/17/2017

Referral: Education & Workforce

AVMA Position: Support

Establishes a federal refinancing option for borrowers under the William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program. Borrowers would be able to modify the interest rate of such loans to be equal to the interest rate for such loans at the time of modification. Refinancing debt at lower interest rates is an option currently available to private businesses, governments and home owners. Federal refinancing would help borrowers save thousands of dollars throughout repayment. Refinancing occurs when a borrower applies for a loan under new terms, and uses that loan to pay off one or more existing loans.

### **H.R. 4000, Student Loan Relief Act**

House Sponsor: Comstock (R-VA)

Cosponsors: 0 (0D, 0R)

Introduced: 10/10/2017

Referral: Education & Workforce

AVMA Position: None

Establishes a mechanism to allow borrowers of Federal student loans to refinance their loans, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the exclusion for employer-provided educational assistance to employer payment of interest on certain refinanced student loans.

### **H.R. 4001, Student Loan Refinancing and Recalculation Act**

House Sponsor: Garamendi (D-CA)

Cosponsors: 19 (17D, 2R)

Introduced: 10/10/2017

Referral: Education & Workforce

AVMA Position: None

Provides for the refinancing and recalculation of certain Federal student loans. Graduate and professional students would be able to refinance at a rate equal to the 10-year Treasury bill +1%.

### **H.R. 3836, Student Loan Fair Prepayment Act**

House Sponsor: Davis (D-CA)

Cosponsors: 19 (17D, 2R)

Introduced: 9/26/2017

Referral: Education & Workforce

AVMA Position: None

Amends the Higher Education Act of 1965 and the Truth in Lending Act to clarify the application of prepayment amounts on student loan.

### **H.R. 159, Wildlife Veterinarians Employment and Training Act (Wildlife VET Act)**

House Sponsor: Hastings (D-IN)

Cosponsors: 6 (6D, 0R)

Introduced: 1/3/2017

Referral: House Agriculture

Subcommittee on Livestock and

Foreign Agriculture; and House

Natural Resources Subcommittees on

Water, Power and

Oceans; Subcommittee on Federal

Lands

Authorizes the Department of the Interior to award grants to wildlife or veterinary institutions to create additional clinical and research positions for wildlife and zoological veterinarians. Preference must be given to institutions that will create positions in areas of need, including wildlife disease research and training, disease surveillance, ecology and wildlife population management, and conservation and management of the health of endangered, threatened, and sensitive species. Interior must establish: 1) the Wildlife and Zoological Veterinary Workforce Loan Repayment Program to pay educational loans of eligible individuals for a doctoral degree in veterinary

AVMA Position: Support

medicine or a graduate degree in veterinary medicine, and 2) the Wildlife and Zoological Veterinary Workforce Scholarship Program to award students enrolled in an accredited school or college of veterinary medicine scholarships. Those loans may be repaid and the awards may be given only if the recipient of the loan or the award agrees to serve for at least four consecutive years at a wildlife or veterinary institution as a wildlife or zoological veterinarian. Interior must also: 1) establish a pilot program to award grants to accredited schools and colleges of veterinary medicine to develop or improve new or existing curricula that specialize in wildlife or zoological veterinary medicine, and 2) award grants to eligible wildlife or veterinary institutions to establish or expand training programs that will enhance the ability of a trainee to practice as a wildlife or zoological veterinarian.

**H.R. 3554, Streamlining Income-driven, Manageable Payments on Loans for Education Act**  
**S. 1712, Streamlining Income-driven, Manageable Payments on Loans for Education Act**

House Sponsor: Bonamici (D-OR)  
Cosponsors: 3 (1D, 2R)  
Introduced: 7/28/2017  
Referral: Education & Workforce,  
Ways & Means  
AVMA Position: Support

The SIMPLE Act eases the process of enrolling in income-driven repayment (IDR) plans by allowing at-risk borrowers to make more informed decisions about which plans are right for them; it automatically connects such borrowers with IDR plans before they default. Additionally, the bill provides for automatic recertification of borrowers' incomes while they are enrolled in income-driven repayment plans to prevent unexpected increases in loan payments. The bill also automates the income-monitoring process for borrowers whose loans are discharged because of disability.

Senate Sponsor: Wyden (D-OR)  
Cosponsors: 0  
Introduced: 8/2/2017  
Referral: Health, Education, Labor, and  
Pensions  
AVMA Position: Support

**H.R. 4372, Help Students Repay Act**

House Sponsor: Ferguson (R-GA)  
Cosponsors: 5 (0D, 5R)  
Introduced: 11/13/2017  
Referral: Education & Workforce  
AVMA Position: None

Consolidates the repayment plans into a single IDR plan and a 10-year standard plan. The bill contains safeguards against negative amortization in the IDR plan by capping interest accrual at the 10-year standard plan.

**H.R. 3390, Student Loan Relief Act of 2017**  
**S. 1521, Student Loan Relief Act of 2017**

House Sponsor: Castor (D-FL)  
Cosponsors: 1 (1D, 0R)  
Introduced: 7/25/2017  
Referral: Education & Workforce  
AVMA Position: Support

Eliminates origination fees, creates a new federal loan refinancing program for loans made under the Direct Loan Program and the defunct Federal Family Education Loan (FFEL) program, and lower interest rates. For Federal Direct Unsubsidized Stafford Loans for graduate and professional students, the interest rate would be equal to the lesser of the 10-year Treasury note plus the Federal Reserve discount rate or 5%. For PLUS loans, the interest rate would be equal to the lesser of the 10-year Treasury note plus the Federal Reserve Discount rate or 6%. For new loans issued after July 1, 2018, the interest rate for undergraduates would be equal to the lesser of the 10-year Treasury note plus the Federal Reserve discount rate or 4%. A

Senate Sponsor: Nelson (D-FL)  
Cosponsors: 0  
Introduced: 7/10/2017  
Referral: Health, Education, Labor, and  
Pensions

AVMA Position: Support

federal refinancing program would allow both FFEL and Direct Loan borrowers to refinance at current interest rates. For consolidated loans, the interest rate would be equal to a weighted average of the current interest rate for each proportion of the consolidated loan.

### **H.R. 4399, PSLF Technical Corrections Act**

#### **S. 2136, PSLF Technical Corrections Act**

House Sponsor: Boyle (D-PA)

Cosponsors: 3 (1D, 2R)

Introduced: 11/15/2017

Referral: Education & Workforce

AVMA Position: Support

Extends PSLF eligibility to borrowers who have already invested up to 10 years toward making 120 on-time payments, but may have been unaware that the payment plan in which they enrolled was not sanctioned for forgiveness.

Senate Sponsor: Whitehouse (D-RI)

Cosponsors: 2 (2D, 0R)

Introduced: 11/16/2017

Referral: Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

AVMA Position: Support

### **H.R. 3026, Strengthening Loan Forgiveness for Public Servants Act**

#### **S. 1412, Strengthening Loan Forgiveness for Public Servants Act**

House Sponsor: Swawell (D-CA)

Cosponsors: 5 (5D, 0R)

Introduced: 6/22/2017

Referral: Education & Workforce

AVMA Position: Monitor

Removes the "all or nothing" component of PSLF and allows borrowers employed in public service jobs to receive a percentage of forgiveness if employed in a public service job for less than 10 years. The percentage of the loan that is cancelled varies: for 2-5 years, 15%; for 6-9 years, 20%; and for 10 years, 30%.

Senate Sponsor: Blumenthal (D-CT)

Cosponsors: 9 (9D, 0R)

Introduced: 6/22/2017

Referral: Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

AVMA Position: Monitor

#### **S. 1927: Adjunct Faculty Loan Fairness Act of 2017**

Senate Sponsor: Durbin (D-IL)

Cosponsors: 1 (1D, 0R)

Introduced: 10/5/2017

Referral: Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

AVMA Position: Support

Amends section 455(m) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 in order to allow adjunct faculty members to qualify for public service loan forgiveness.

### **H.R. 2949, Joint Consolidation Loan Separation Act**

#### **S. 1384, Joint Consolidation Loan Separation Act**

House Sponsor: Price (D-NC)

Cosponsors: 1 (0D, 1R)

Introduced: 6/20/2017

Referral: Education & Workforce

AVMA Position: Support

Allows a married couple or a previously married couple who pursued a joint loan, to separate their consolidation.

Senate Sponsor: Warner (D-VA)  
Cosponsors: 3 (1D, 2R)  
Introduced: 6/20/2017  
Referral: Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions  
AVMA Position: Support

### **H.R. 2725, Student Loan Lower Interest Rate and Lower Monthly Payment Refinancing Act**

Sponsor: Rokita (R-IN)  
Cosponsors: 3 (3D, 0R)  
Introduced: 5/25/2017  
Referral: Education & Workforce  
AVMA Position: Monitor

Creates a new federal student loan refinancing program. Borrowers can refinance loans from the FFEL, Direct Loan, and Perkins Loan programs at a variable interest rate (the daily average of 1-month London Inter Bank Offered Rate (LIBOR) for U.S. dollars in effect for each of the days in the prior calendar quarter as compiled and released by the British Bankers Association plus 3.5%).  
To pay for the cost of the refinancing program, the bill caps PSLF for new borrowers as of 7/1/17 at \$57,500 and restores the original terms of the IBR plan for grad-professional student borrowers only for new borrowers as of 7/1/17 from 10% of discretionary income to 15% and a 25-year repayment period from 20 years.

### **H.R. 2718, Federal Student Loan Refinancing Act**

Sponsor: Peters (D-CA)  
Cosponsors: 21 (21 D, 0R)  
Introduced: 5/25/2017  
Referral: Education & Workforce  
AVMA Position: Support

Automatically refinances interest rates on loans made under the Direct Loan Program and the FFEL Program to 4%. The newly consolidated loan will have 0.4% origination fee on the principal balance.

### **H.R. 1127, Student Loan Fairness Act**

Sponsor: Bass (D-CA)  
Cosponsors: 2 (2D, 0R)  
Introduced: 2/16/2017  
Referral: Education & Workforce;  
Financial Services; Ways & Means  
AVMA Position: Monitor

Establishes a "10/10 Loan Repayment Plan" allowing borrowers to pay 10% of their annual discretionary income and forgives the remaining loan balance after 10 years of payment.  
Caps new direct loan interest rates at 3.4%.  
Modifies PSLF by reducing the required number of qualifying payments from 120 to 60 and including physicians in "Medically Underserved Areas."  
Allows certain borrowers with private education loans to consolidate them into a direct consolidation loan.  
Excludes loan forgiveness under income-driven repayment plans from gross income for the purposes of income tax.

### **S. 799, Dynamic Repayment Act**

Sponsor: Warner (D-VA)  
Cosponsors: 1 (0D, 1R)  
Introduced: 3/30/2017  
Referral: Finance  
AVMA Position: Monitor

Bill proposes employer withholding and automatic IBR for loan repayment. Replaces current loans, subsidies, deferments, forbearances, and repayment options with a single loan called the Income Dependent Education Assistance Loan, repaid through universal income-driven repayment and employer withholding.

### **S. 1066, Federal Adjustment in Reporting (FAIR) Student Credit Act**

Sponsor: Peters (R-MI)  
Cosponsors: 1 (0D, 1R)

Allows private loan lenders the ability to offer a loan rehabilitation program with the result of removing a private student loan default

Introduced: 5/8/2017  
Referral: Banking, Housing, and Urban  
AVMA Position: Monitor

from a borrower's credit history if successfully completed. This private loan rehabilitation program would only be available one time per loan if a lender chooses to implement such a program.

### **H.R. 2042, Access to Frontline Health Care Act**

Sponsor: Loeb sack (D-IA)  
Cosponsors: 0  
Introduced: 4/6/2017  
Referral: Energy & Commerce  
AVMA Position: None

Establishes a "Frontline Providers Loan Repayment Program" within the Department of Health and Human Services under the Public Health Service Act. The new loan repayment program would allow for repayment assistance for health professionals who commit to two years of service in "frontline scarcity areas." Amount of loan repayment assistance to be determined by the HHS Secretary.

### **H.R. 1937, Student Security Act**

Sponsor: Garrett (R-VA)  
Cosponsors: 2 (0D, 2R)  
Introduced: 4/5/2017  
Referral: Ways & Means, Education & Workforce  
AVMA Position: None

Provides loan forgiveness credits to federal student loan borrowers in exchange for voluntarily delaying receipt of social security benefits. Each credit equals \$550 in loan cancellations. The number of credits a borrower elects to receive delays receipt of social security benefits by the equivalent number of months.

## **Discharging Student Loans in Bankruptcy Legislation**

Legislative proposals that would permit a borrower to discharge student loans in bankruptcy.

### **H.R. 3630, Student Loan Borrowers' Bill of Rights Act of 2017**

Sponsor: Wilson (D-FL)  
Cosponsors: 0  
Introduced: 7/28/2017  
Referral: Education and the Workforce; Ways and Means; Judiciary; Oversight and Government Reform  
AVMA Position: Support

Provides bankruptcy protections for federal and private student loans, reestablishes a statute of limitations on student loan debt collection, and prohibits the garnishment of wages, tax refunds, and Social Security benefits. Expands PSLF by allowing borrowers to have half of their loan balance forgiven in 5 years. Allows Parent PLUS loans to be repaid through IBR and forgiven through PSLF. Prohibits loan default from preventing a student from accessing transcripts and certifications or from being used against a borrower in a Federal or State proceeding involving the individual's professional or vocation license. Excludes student loan discharge or forgiveness from the calculation of gross income for income tax purposes.

### **H.R. 2527, Student Loan Bankruptcy Fairness Act**

Sponsor: Cohen (D-TN)  
Cosponsors: 22 (22D, 0R)  
Introduced: 5/18/2017  
Referral: Judiciary  
AVMA Position: None

Allows private student loans to be discharged in bankruptcy.

### **H.R. 2366, Discharge Student Loans in Bankruptcy Act**

Sponsor: Delaney (D-MD)  
Cosponsors: 17 (16D, 1R)  
Introduced: 5/4/2017  
Referral: Judiciary  
AVMA Position: None

Allows all student loans, including both private and government loans, to be discharged in bankruptcy.



## Financial Literacy

Legislative proposals that seek to increase borrower's awareness of the terms and conditions of borrowing and repayment of student financial aid.

### **H.R. 1635, Empowering Students Through Enhanced Financial Counseling Act**

Sponsor: Guthrie (R-KY)

Cosponsors: 19 (5D, 14R)

Introduced: 3/20/2017

Referral: Education & Workforce

AVMA Position: Support

Changes the current one-time entrance counseling requirement for student loans and Pell Grants into an annual counseling requirement.

### **H.R. 1429, Letter of Estimated Annual Debt for Students (LEADS) Act**

Sponsor: Messer (R-IN)

Cosponsors: 9 (2D, 7R)

Introduced: 3/8/2017

Referral: Education & Workforce

AVMA Position: Support

Requires schools to provide students with annual notices of student loan borrowing amounts, the cumulative balance of education loans owed by the student at that date, the amount of any new loans to be disbursed during the academic year, the projected cumulative balance of education loans that will be owed after graduation, and projected monthly payment amounts assuming a standard repayment plan. The U.S. Department of Education would create a template for schools to comply.

### **H.R. 3051, Educating Student Loan Borrowers Act**

Sponsor: Welch (D-VT)

Cosponsors: 3 (2D, 1R)

Introduced: 6/23/2017

Referral: Education & Workforce

AVMA Position: Support

Requires federal loan servicers to disclose annually to borrowers a description of available repayment plans, options for public service employees, and loan forgiveness and cancellations options.

### **H.R. 2968, Know Your Repayment Options Act**

Sponsor: Swalwell (D-CA)

Cosponsors: 13 (13D, 0R)

Introduced: 6/20/2017

Referral: Education & Workforce

AVMA Position: Support

Directs the Department of Education to provide all federal student loan borrowers with personalized repayment guides. Guides would be given annually to borrowers after receiving exit counseling until their federal loans are paid off. The guide would tell borrowers their average anticipated monthly payment amount, yearly payment amount, lifetime payment amount, number of months remaining to pay off loans, amount that would be forgiven under all possible plans, and instructions for changing repayment plans.

### **S. 888, Understanding the True Cost of College Act**

Sponsor: Sen. Grassley (R-IA)

Cosponsors: 6 (6D, 0R)

Introduced: 4/7/2017

Referral: Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

AVMA Position: None

Requires a standardized financial aid award letter that includes cost of attendance, grant aid, net cost after subtracting grant aid, work study assistance, eligible amounts of federal student loans, expected federal loan monthly repayment amounts, and several disclosures.

### **S. 1628, Know Before You Owe Federal Student Loan Act**

Sponsor: Grassley (R-IA)

Cosponsors: 2 (1D, 1R)

Requires annual counseling for every newly disbursed loan. Institutions would be required to perform "pre-loan counseling" to

Introduced: 7/25/2017  
Referral: Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions  
AVMA Position: None

estimate a borrower's debt-to-income ratio and share statements informing the borrower that they don't have to accept the full amount of loans for which they are eligible. Borrowers would be required to manually enter the exact dollar amount they intend to borrow, either in writing or through electronic means, after completing pre-loan counseling, but before certification and disbursement. Students would receive regular statements about their loan balance from their servicer while in a period of deferment or forbearance, including while in school.

## **H.R. 1283, Transparency in Student Lending Act**

### **S. 749, Transparency in Student Lending Act**

House Sponsor: Hultgren (R-IL)  
Cosponsors: 2 (1D, 1R)  
Introduced: 3/1/2017  
Referral: Education & Workforce  
AVMA Position: None

Requires institutions to disclose the annual percentage rate applicable to each federal student loan disbursed before disbursement.

The annual percentage rate includes the loan amount, the stated interest rate of the loan, the standard term for a loan of the same type, any fees or additional costs associated with the loan, and any capitalization of interest on the loan. Disclosures must be provided "in writing" and "in a form the borrower may keep."

Senate Sponsor: Enzi (R-WY)  
Cosponsors: 1 (0D, 1R)  
Introduced: 3/28/2017  
Referral: Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions  
AVMA Position: None

## **H.R. 1193, Financial Literacy to Financial Freedom Act**

Sponsor: Trott (R-MI)  
Cosponsors: 0  
Introduced: 2/16/2017  
Referral: Education & Workforce  
AVMA Position: None

Allows institutions to mandate additional loan counseling on top of current entrance counseling requirements. Requires borrowers, including both parents and students, to sign a master promissory note, submit a written statement accepting the loan, or electronically sign a similar statement before loans can be disbursed.

## **Tax Provisions and other incentives for borrowers**

Legislative proposals that seek to establish a tax benefit for students, graduates, and/or employers.

### **H.R. 1, Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (comprehensive tax reform)**

House Sponsor: Brady (R-TX)  
Cosponsors: 24 (0D, 24R)  
Introduced: 11/2/2017  
Referral: Ways & Means and Finance  
Status: President Trump signed H.R. 1 into law on 12/22/17  
AVMA Position: None

This tax reform bill made changes to tax provisions affecting higher education. The first version passed by the House would have eliminated the student loan interest deduction, the Lifetime Learning Credit, the employer-provided educational assistance benefit, the Section 117(d) tuition reduction assistance benefit for employees and graduate-level teaching assistants. The Senate version did not include these provisions, and ultimately, the final bill did not include these provisions and also provides an exclusion from income for any discharge of student loan debt resulting from death or total disability.

## **H.R. 1268, Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program Enhancement Act**

### **S. 487, Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program Enhancement Act**

House Sponsor: Smith (R-IN)  
Cosponsors: 33 (19D, 14R)  
Introduced: 3/1/2017  
Referral: Ways & Means  
AVMA Position: Support

Excludes from gross income payments under the federal veterinary medicine loan repayment program as well as excludes any state loan repayment or forgiveness program that is intended to provide for increased access to veterinary services in such state.

Senate Sponsor: Crapo (R-ID)  
Cosponsors: 23 (11D, 11R, 1I)  
Introduced: 3/1/2017  
Referral: Finance  
AVMA Position: Support

## **H.R. 1659, Stop Taxing Death and Disability Act**

### **S. 405, Stop Taxing Death and Disability Act**

House Sponsor: Roskum (R-MI)  
Cosponsors: 13 (9D, 4R)  
Introduced: 3/21/2017  
Referral: Ways & Means, Education & Workforce  
AVMA Position: Support

Excludes loan forgiveness from death or disability, including the Total and Permanent Disability loan discharge, from the calculation of gross income for income tax purposes.

Senate Sponsor: Coons (D-DE)  
Cosponsors: 16 (9D, 6R, 1R)  
Introduced: 2/16/2017  
Referral: Finance  
AVMA Position: Support

## **H.R. 795, Employer Participation in Student Loan Assistance Act**

### **S. 796, Employer Participation in Repayment Act of 2017**

House Sponsor: Davis (R-IL)  
Cosponsors: 91 (51D, 40R)  
Introduced: 3/21/2017  
Referral: Ways & Means, Education & Workforce  
AVMA Position: Support

Allows employers to contribute pre-tax earnings to help subsidize student loan payments for their employees, up to \$5,250 per year per employee by amending the Internal Revenue Code to extend the tax exclusion for employer-provided educational assistance to include an employer's payments to an employee or lender for the principal or interest on any qualified education loan incurred by an employee.

Senate Sponsor: Warner (D-VA)  
Cosponsors: 6 (2D, 3R, 1I)  
Introduced: 2/16/2017  
Referral: Finance  
AVMA Position: Support

## **H.R. 2551 - Student Loan Debt Relief Act**

House Sponsor: Stivers (R-OH)  
Cosponsors: 1 (1D, 0R)  
Introduced: 5/19/2017  
Referral: Ways & Means  
AVMA Position: None

Amends the Internal Revenue Code, with respect to the tax treatment of student loan payments, to: 1) expand the tax exclusion for employer-provided educational assistance programs to include an employer's payment of any qualified education loan incurred by an employee; 2) increase the maximum amount that may be excluded from the gross income of an employee under employer-provided

educational assistance programs; and 3) increase the maximum deduction and the income limitation for the deduction for interest on education loans.

### **H.R. 3145, Investing in Student Achievement Act**

#### **S. 268, Investing in Student Success Act**

House Sponsor: Messer (R-IN)  
Cosponsors: 8 (2D, 6R)  
Introduced: 6/29/2017  
Referral: Financial Svcs; Ways & Means;  
Ed & Workforce; Armed Services; VA  
AVMA Position: None

Establishes the legal and tax framework for income-share agreements (ISAs). Establishes standard terms and conditions required for a repayment agreement between a private entity and a student to be considered an ISA for tax purposes. Exempts proceeds received by a student as part of the ISA to cover education costs from income and asset for need analysis.

Senate Sponsor: Young (R-IN)  
Cosponsors: 2 (0D, 2R)  
Introduced: 6/29/2017  
Referral: Finance  
AVMA Position: None

### **H.R. 3134, Transform Student Debt to Home Equity Act**

Sponsor: Kaptur (D-OH)  
Cosponsors: 6 (6D, 0R)  
Introduced: 6/29/2017  
Referral: Financial Services  
AVMA Position: None

Authorizes a two-year pilot program led by the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the Director of the Federal Housing Finance Agency (FHFA) to incentivize borrowers with federal student loan debt to buy certain homes. The program allows HUD and FHFA to offer assistance to eligible borrowers, such as flexible underwriting or a discount on the appraised value of a home. Eligible properties include those owned by HUD, Fannie Mae, and Freddie Mac (via foreclosure). Eligible applicants include borrowers with an outstanding balance of principal or interest on FFEL, Direct Loans, or Perkins Loans that are in repayment or in a grace period, but not in litigation, default, or wage garnishment. Eligible applicants may not have owned a home during the past 3 years.

### **H.R. 2848, Relief and Investment for Student Entrepreneurs (RISE) Act**

Sponsor: Gallego (D-AZ)  
Cosponsors: 1 (1D, 0R)  
Introduced: 6/8/2017  
Referral: Education and Workforce  
AVMA Position: None

Offers a 3-year interest-free deferment period for federal student loans to "qualified entrepreneurs."  
Allows entrepreneurs who start businesses in Historically Underutilized Business Zones (HUBZones) to receive up to \$17,500 in Direct Loan forgiveness.

### **S. 848, Reigniting Opportunity for Innovators Act**

Sponsor: Hassan (D-NH)  
Cosponsors: 0  
Introduced: 4/5/2017  
Referral: Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions  
AVMA Position: None

Encourages entrepreneurship by providing the option for non-interest accruing deferment to qualifying small business start-up founders and employees for up to three years. If the start-up is located in an "economically distressed" area, founders and employees are eligible for loan cancellation up to \$20,000.

## Quality & Accountability & Transparency

Legislative proposals that seek to improve institutional quality and/or look to hold institutions or individuals responsible for their actions or performance, including legislation impacting accreditation and matters related to the Department of Education, including structure and regulatory activity.

### **H.R. 4274, Higher Education Reform and Opportunity Act**

#### **S. 2228, Higher Education Reform and Opportunity Act**

Sponsor: DeSantis (R-FL)

Cosponsors: 32 (0D, 32R)

Introduced: 11/7/2017

Referral: Education & Workforce

AVMA Position: None

Allows states to accredit any institution that provides postsecondary education (including courses and programs) that can be applied to a degree, credential, or professional certification; this state-level accreditation would make an institution eligible to participate in the federal student aid programs. The bill requires institutions to publish a variety of enrollment, graduation, and repayment figures with compliance monitored by an independent third party contracted by the state in which the institution is located, not by the Department of Education. The bill eliminate all loan forgiveness programs for new loans made on or after 6 months following the date of enactment. The bill would fine institutions based on default rate – an institution's fine would be 10% of the difference between the amount of defaulted loans made, insured, or guaranteed in the fiscal year and the product of the amount of defaulted loans and the national unemployment rate.

Sponsor: Lee (R-UT)

Cosponsors: 0 (0D, 0R)

Introduced: 12/13/2017

Referral: Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

AVMA Position: None

### **H.R. 3052, Flexibility to Innovate for College Affordability Act**

Sponsor: Welch D-VT

Cosponsors: 1 (0D, 1R)

Introduced: 6/23/2017

Referral: Education & Workforce;  
Rules

AVMA Position: None

Establishes the "Higher Education Regulatory Reform Task Force," to be composed of the Secretary of Education and higher education community stakeholders. The task force would submit to Congress recommendations to reduce burdensome, duplicative, or ineffective regulations in higher education. Following the task force's work, the President is tasked with producing and submitting to Congress a bill to address the task force's recommendations; the bill would receive expedited consideration. Allows, through the Experimental Sites Initiative, the Secretary to waive grant and loan maximums for an experiment at institutions that would prorate additional aid to students enrolled over the minimum full-time course-load. The Secretary would have full waiver authority through ESI to conduct other experiments, including prior learning assessments, dual enrollment, and non-accredited competency-based education.

### **H.R. 2743, 85/15 Rule Act**

Sponsor: Waters (D-CA)

Cosponsors: 0

Introduced: 5/25/2017

Referral: Education & Workforce

AVMA Position: None

Restores the 85/15 ratio for proprietary institutions from the current 90/10 rule ratio.

## **H.R. 2301, Court Legal Access and Student Support (CLASS) Act**

### **S. 553, Court Legal Access and Student Support (CLASS) Act**

House Sponsor: Waters (D-CA)

Cosponsors: 9 (9D, 0R)

Introduced: 5/2/2017

Referral: Education & Workforce;  
Judiciary

AVMA Position: None

Prevents institutions from limiting the ability of students to pursue claims against the institution, such as through mandatory arbitration clauses in enrollment agreements.

Ensures existing law regarding enforcement of arbitration agreements does not apply to enrollment agreements.

Senate Sponsor: Durbin (D-IL)

Cosponsors: 8 (8D, 0R)

Introduced: 3/7/2017

Referral: Health, Education, Labor, and  
Pensions

AVMA Position: None

## **H.R. 2300, Students Before Profits Act**

Sponsor: Waters (D-CA)

Cosponsors: 6 (6D, 0R)

Introduced: 5/25/2017

Referral: Education & Workforce

AVMA Position: None

Imposes civil penalties on executives of institutions found to be misrepresenting student data.

Requires ED Secretary to monitor cohort default rate (CDR) manipulation and make retroactive adjustments to CDRs if manipulation is discovered.

Makes executives personally liable for financial losses due to borrower defense to repayment.

Bars board members and executives from institutions the Department of Education has pursued enforcement action against from working at another institution of higher education.

## **H.R. 1922, Foreign Medical School Accountability Fairness Act**

### **S. 850, Foreign Medical School Accountability Fairness Act**

House Sponsor: Burgess (R-TX)

Cosponsors: 1 (1D, 0R)

Introduced: 4/5/2017

Referral: Education & Workforce

AVMA Position: None

Eliminates an exemption of certain medical schools outside of the U.S. and Canada from federal student aid requirements.

Requires all medical schools outside of the U.S. and Canada to enroll at least 60% non-U.S. citizens or permanent residents, and their graduates must have at least a 75% pass rate on the U.S. Medical Licensing Exam. Any U.S. student enrolled before the enactment of the legislation would retain access to Direct Loans.

Senate Sponsor: Durbin (D-IL)

Cosponsors: 1 (0D, 1R)

Introduced: 4/5/2017

Referral: Health, Education, Labor, and  
Pensions

AVMA Position: None

## **H.R. 1510, States' Education Reclamation Act**

Sponsor: Rouzer (R-NC)

Cosponsors: 3 (1D, 2R)

Introduced: 3/13/2017

Referral: Education & Workforce

AVMA Position: None

Eliminates the Department of Education and distributes major programs to other agencies.

All student loan programs would be transferred to the U.S. Department of the Treasury.

### **H.R. 899, To terminate the Department of Education**

Sponsor: Massie (R-KY)  
Cosponsors: 10 (0D, 10R)  
Introduced: 2/7/2017  
Referral: Education & Workforce  
AVMA Position: None

Eliminates the Department of Education, effective December 31, 2018. The bill does not describe what would happen to the federal student aid programs.

### **S. 615, Higher Education Innovation Act**

Sponsor: Bennet (D-CO)  
Cosponsors: 1 (0D, 1R)  
Introduced: 3/13/2017  
Referral: Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions  
AVMA Position: None

Establishes a pilot program for alternative accreditation for institutions for the purposes of institutional eligibility for the federal student aid programs. Certain currently ineligible programs and providers would be authorized to receive Title IV funds, provided the programs and providers meet performance metrics.

## **Bullying, Hazing, Student Support**

Legislative proposals that seek to support students and shield and/or protect them from emotional trauma, bullying and hazing incidents.

### **H.R. 2976, Deferment for Active Cancer Treatment Act**

Sponsor: Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL)  
Cosponsors: 30 (24D, 6R)  
Introduced: 6/21/2017  
Referral: Education & Workforce  
AVMA Position: None

Allow federal student loan borrowers who are receiving cancer treatment to defer their loan payments with no interest accrual.

### **H.R. 2926, Report and Educate About Campus Hazing (REACH) Act**

Sponsor: Meehan (R-PA)  
Cosponsors: 8 (3D, 5R)  
Introduced: 6/15/2017  
Referral: Education & Workforce  
AVMA Position: None

Require institutions to include hazing incidents in the annual campus security report. Institutions would be required to develop a hazing education program for students.

### **H.R. 2782, Respond, Innovate, Succeed, and Empower (RISE) Act**

#### **S. 1121, Respond, Innovate, Succeed, and Empower (RISE) Act**

House Sponsor: Bonamici (D-OR)  
Cosponsors: 4 (2D, 2R)  
Introduced: 6/6/2017  
Referral: Education & Workforce  
AVMA Position: None

The RISE Act requires institutions to adopt policies in support of students with disabilities. Institutions would also be required to report data about students with disabilities in federal postsecondary data collection efforts, including in the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System.

Senate Sponsor: Casey (D-PA)  
Cosponsors: 3 (1D, 2R)  
Introduced: 6/6/2017  
Referral: Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions  
AVMA Position: None

**H.R. 2151, Tyler Clementi Higher Education Anti-Harassment Act**

**S. 954, Tyler Clementi Higher Education Anti-Harassment Act**

House Sponsor: Pocan (D-WI)

Cosponsors: 48 (48D, 0R)

Introduced: 4/26/2017

Referral: Education & Workforce

AVMA Position: None

Senate Sponsor: Murray (D-WA)

Cosponsors: 20 (19D, 1I, 0R)

Introduced: 4/26/2017

Referral: Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

AVMA Position: None

Requires institutions to establish an anti-harassment policy prohibiting the harassment of enrolled students based on their actual or perceived race, color, national origin, sex, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, or religion.

Institutions would be required to distribute their anti-harassment policy to all students and employees, including prospective students and employees, upon request.

Authorizes an anti-bullying higher education competitive grant program.