

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2385

To provide Federal Perkins Loan cancellation to fire fighters.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

NOVEMBER 16, 2007

Mr. BROWN introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To provide Federal Perkins Loan cancellation to fire fighters.

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. FINDINGS.**

4 Congress finds the following:

5 (1) Fire fighters provide an immeasurable serv-
6 ice to the Nation, putting their lives, health, and
7 safety on the line every day to protect communities
8 and citizens from everyday emergencies and large-
9 scale disasters.

10 (2) According to the Bureau of Labor Statis-
11 tics, nearly 78 percent of fire fighters age twenty-
12 five to forty-four have pursued a higher education.

1 (3) As modern fire fighter responsibilities have
 2 become increasingly complex and more dependent on
 3 advanced technology, achieving a highly educated
 4 fire service will enable fire fighters to carry out a
 5 safe and effective response.

6 (4) According to the International City/County
 7 Management Association, the national average en-
 8 trance salary for full-time fire fighters is \$34,688,
 9 while the average maximum salary is \$47,386.

10 (5) The rising cost of college education, com-
 11 bined with the relatively low wages earned by fire
 12 fighters, makes it difficult for many full-time fire
 13 fighters to afford student loan debt.

14 **SEC. 2. FEDERAL PERKINS LOANS.**

15 Section 465(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965
 16 (20 U.S.C. 1087ee(a)) is amended—

17 (1) in paragraph (2)—

18 (A) in subparagraph (H), by striking “or”
 19 after the semicolon;

20 (B) in subparagraph (I), by striking the
 21 period and inserting “; or”; and

22 (C) by inserting before the matter fol-
 23 lowing subparagraph (I) the following:

24 “(J) as a full-time employee in fire protec-
 25 tion activities, as described in section 3(y) of

1 the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29
2 U.S.C. 203(y)), but including a full-time em-
3 ployee in fire protection activities of a Federal
4 department or agency (as well as an employee
5 of a State, municipality, county, or fire dis-
6 trict).”; and

7 (2) in paragraph (3)(A)(i), by striking “or (I)”
8 and inserting “(I), or (J)”.

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