



Individual Legislative Proposals to Address COVID-19

As of 6/12/2020

Aside from large stimulus packages encompassing sections of various federal departments and agencies, several lawmakers have introduced individual proposals to address more particular issues or to provide language that can be wrapped into a larger package. Below is a running list of legislative proposals introduced that may affect the graduate education community. The chart below will continue to be updated as new legislation is introduced.

Bill	Sponsor(s)	Details Available	Action(s)
Proposals Related to Student Loans/Aid			
S. 3947 , Coronavirus Relief Flexibility for Students and Institutions Act	Senator Tim Kaine (D-VA)	Fixes several implementation issues with the higher education emergency relief fund in the CARES Act by providing institutions of higher education and students with the increased flexibility Congress intended.	
H.R. 6363	Ayanna Pressley (D-MA-07), Ilhan Omar (D-MN-05)	Cancels monthly payments for borrowers during the coronavirus emergency and guarantees that each borrower receives at least \$30,000 of debt cancellation.	
S. 3556 , COVID-19 Graduate Relief Act	Mitt Romney (R-UT)	Provides deferral of loan repayment for graduates during the period of the coronavirus for up to three years.	
S. 3543	Jon Tester (D-MT)	Amends the public service loan forgiveness program under the Higher Education Act of 1965 to waive the requirement that a	

		borrower make a monthly payment during a month for which there is a qualifying emergency in the State in which the borrower is employed.	
Proposals Related to Student Veterans			
S. 3503 , Public Law No: 116-128	Jerry Moran (R-KS), Jon Tester (D-MT)	Grants the VA authority to continue education benefits for veterans whose programs are moved online due to an "emergency or other health related situation."	Bill became law 3/21/2020 CGS joined community letter in support
H.R. 6322 , Public Law No: 116-140, Student Veteran Coronavirus Response Act of 2020,	Mark Takano (D-CA-41), Phil Roe (R-TN-01)	Builds on S. 3503 above Gives VA the latitude to continue paying student veterans who lost their position on campus due to the COVID-19 outbreak Modifies current law to cover all emergency situations, including public health emergencies like those caused by the current spread of COVID-19 Student veterans would continue to receive housing benefits through the end of their term and will not have their GI Bill eligibility charged for any class they were unable to complete and receive credit for if their schools or program shut down due to an emergency situation	Bill became law 4/29/2020 CGS joined community letter in support

		Stops the eligibility clock for student veterans and eligible dependents impacted by school closures during emergency situations by allowing VA to extend the “use or lose” date for VA education benefits.	
Broader Education Packages			
H.R. 6275	Bobby Scott (D-VA-03)	<p>\$1.2 billion in emergency financial aid for students for necessities such as housing, food, and health care</p> <p>\$1.2 billion in Education Preparedness and Support Grants for governors to provide funding to school districts or institutions of higher education</p> <p>Establishes increased flexibility for students with student loan obligations and eases the financial burden on students and institutions in response to coronavirus</p> <p>Exempts students from paying back Pell Grants or student loans that were taken out for a disrupted term</p> <p>New flexibility for foreign institutions of higher education serving American students abroad through distance education to ensure students are not disrupted by outbreaks in other countries</p>	