

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 646

To amend section 435(o) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 regarding the definition of economic hardship.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 19, 2009

Mr. BURR (for himself, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. DODD, and Mr. COBURN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To amend section 435(o) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 regarding the definition of economic hardship.

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 “Medical Economic
5 Deferment for Students Act” or the “MEDS Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITION OF ECONOMIC HARDSHIP.**

7 Section 435(o) of the Higher Education Act of 1965
8 (20 U.S.C. 1085(o)) is amended—

9 (1) in paragraph (1)—

1 (A) in subparagraph (A)(ii), by striking
2 “or” after the semicolon;

3 (B) by redesignating subparagraph (B) as
4 subparagraph (C); and

5 (C) by inserting after subparagraph (A)
6 the following:

7 “(B) such borrower is working full-time
8 and has a Federal educational debt burden that
9 equals or exceeds 20 percent of such borrower’s
10 adjusted gross income, and the difference be-
11 tween such borrower’s adjusted gross income
12 minus such burden is less than 220 percent of
13 the greater of—

14 “(i) the annual earnings of an indi-
15 vidual earning the minimum wage under
16 section 6 of the Fair Labor Standards Act
17 of 1938; or

18 “(ii) 150 percent of the poverty line,
19 as defined under section 673(2) of the
20 Community Services Block Grant Act, ap-
21 plicable to such borrower’s family size; or”;
22 and

23 (2) in paragraph (2), by striking “(1)(B)” and
24 inserting “(1)(C)”.

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