The bill would ensure that for any borrower enrolled in PSLF, and employed in full-time public service before the declared national emergency related to COVID-19, student loan payments that are suspended as a result of the pandemic are counted towards PSLF eligibility, even if the borrower’s employment is disrupted due to the coronavirus.

The bill would forgive the student loan debt of frontline health workers, including psychologists, providing care for those impacted by COVID-19 or conducting research related to the pandemic. This loan forgiveness would apply to all federal and private student loans and the bill ensures that any canceled debt is not considered taxable income. Both paid and volunteer workers, including current trainees, who served for any period during the qualifying emergency related to COVID-19, would be eligible.

The bill would allow both federal and private student loan borrowers to refinance their loans at the new, historically low interest rates that went into effect on July 1, 2020. The bill would also provide current federal benefits and protections to borrowers who refinance their private loans and ensure that any refinanced loans remain eligible for repayment programs, such as Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF).