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## Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF)—Preserving a Critical Program

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The Public Service Loan Forgiveness program (PSLF), created by Congress in 2007 with broad bipartisan support, provides critical support for our nation's public sector by helping dedicated people to make long-term commitments to careers in public service. Under the program, those who make ten years of payments on their student loans while employed full-time in public service jobs are eligible to have their remaining student loan balance forgiven.

There are active proposals to either eliminate or limit PSLF going forward. This important program should be preserved for the longer-term, and should only be limited if other educational debt reforms are put in place.

### **PSLF helps fill critical public service jobs in every state.**

- The public sector includes a broad range of occupations, including first responders, teachers, health professionals, and public service lawyers, among others.
- For example, prosecutors and public defenders promote public safety and the administration of justice. Legal aid lawyers provide necessary legal assistance to low-income elderly, veterans, and families in communities throughout the country.

### **Repeal or arbitrary limitation of PSLF would undermine a vital source of support for communities throughout the country.**

- Each year, public service employers report difficulty in recruiting and retaining talented staff, leaving many Americans without critically needed services.
- Growing educational debt remains one of the most significant challenges in recruiting and retaining these professionals, particularly for people from low-income and disadvantaged communities pursuing occupations that require advanced degrees.

### **By all accounts, PSLF is a program that is working well and achieving its purpose of encouraging and maintaining careers in public service.**

- The proposed elimination of this program would be treating the wrong symptom of the broader student debt crisis facing our nation.
- Reforms that address and solve the root causes of exploding educational debt in our country are needed.