

# ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION No. 155

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## STATE OF NEW JERSEY

### 219th LEGISLATURE

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INTRODUCED MAY 4, 2020

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman CHRISTOPHER P. DEPHILLIPS**

**District 40 (Bergen, Essex, Morris and Passaic)**

**Assemblywoman SERENA DIMASO**

**District 13 (Monmouth)**

**Assemblywoman VALERIE VAINIERI HUTTLE**

**District 37 (Bergen)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

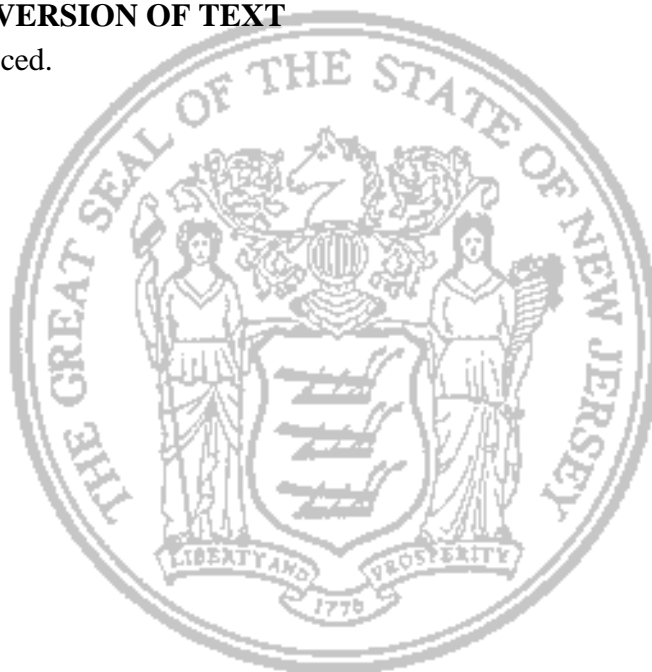
**Assemblywomen McKnight and Downey**

**SYNOPSIS**

Urges US President and Congress to establish student loan forgiveness program for certain doctors, nurses, and emergency medical services employees.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 5/14/2020)**

1   **AN ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION** urging the United States President and  
2   Congress to establish a student loan forgiveness program for  
3   certain doctors, nurses, and emergency medical services  
4   employees.  
5  
6   **WHEREAS**, Doctors, nurses, and emergency medical services (EMS)  
7   employees are essential to the effective functioning of the United  
8   States healthcare system; and  
9   **WHEREAS**, Doctors, nurses, and EMS employees exemplify  
10   selflessness and bravery while responding to, caring for, and  
11   protecting American citizens who are struggling with illnesses and  
12   injuries; and  
13   **WHEREAS**, The day-to-day jobs of doctors, nurses, and EMS  
14   employees are stressful, and in many cases, these employees may  
15   risk their lives to care for the patients around them; and  
16   **WHEREAS**, The already stressful job of doctors, nurses, and EMS  
17   employees is exacerbated during crises, such as the current global  
18   coronavirus pandemic; and  
19   **WHEREAS**, Coronavirus, also known as COVID-19, is a respiratory  
20   illness that was first identified during an outbreak in Wuhan, China  
21   and has since expanded across various continents including Asia,  
22   Europe, North America, South America, Africa, and Australia; and  
23   **WHEREAS**, There have been millions of cases of COVID-19  
24   confirmed worldwide with cases in the United States and New  
25   Jersey, and the number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 is  
26   expected to rise into the future; and  
27   **WHEREAS**, The global COVID-19 pandemic has placed additional  
28   pressures on doctors, nurses, and EMS employees as these  
29   individuals are the nation's frontline defense against the disease;  
30   and  
31   **WHEREAS**, Doctors, nurses, and EMS employees, during the COVID-  
32   19 pandemic, continue to provide professional care services with  
33   limited resources and shortages of protective equipment, such as  
34   N95 face masks, and they continue to remain emotionally tough as  
35   many of their patients become ill or pass away around them; and  
36   **WHEREAS**, COVID-19 is a highly contagious disease and, in many  
37   cases, can be dangerous and fatal; doctors, nurses, and EMS  
38   employees continue to risk their lives daily working amongst this  
39   life-threatening disease; and  
40   **WHEREAS**, A growing number of healthcare professionals have  
41   contracted COVID-19 while performing their jobs; some of these  
42   infected healthcare professionals have been placed in critical  
43   condition or have even died due to COVID-19-related  
44   complications; and  
45   **WHEREAS**, Doctors, nurses, and EMS employees will continue to risk  
46   their lives throughout the remainder of the global COVID-19  
47   pandemic, but their contribution to society will not end; these

1 healthcare professionals will continue to protect American citizens  
2 from injuries and illnesses into the future; and

3 **WHEREAS**, Healthcare professionals, such as doctors, nurses, and  
4 EMS employees, undertake many years of additional schooling in  
5 order to serve in their professional roles; this lengthy education  
6 results in large student loan debts; and

7 **WHEREAS**, The Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program (PSLF)  
8 may apply to doctors, nurses, and EMS employees who work full-  
9 time for federal, state, tribal, or local government agencies and to  
10 those who work for non-profit organizations; however, it does not  
11 apply to doctors, nurses, and EMS employees who cannot meet this  
12 criteria, such as those who work for private organizations; and

13 **WHEREAS**, The bravery, selflessness, and ceaseless work ethic of the  
14 nation's healthcare professionals, during the COVID-19 pandemic,  
15 should be rewarded by ensuring that all doctors, nurses, and EMS  
16 employees involved in the provision of services during the  
17 pandemic are eligible to receive federal student loan forgiveness;  
18 now, therefore,

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20 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the General Assembly of the State of New  
21 Jersey:

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23 1. This House urges the United States President and Congress  
24 to establish a student loan forgiveness program for doctors, nurses,  
25 and emergency medical services employees who provide services  
26 during the COVID-19 pandemic.

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28 2. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of the  
29 State, shall be transmitted by the Clerk of the General Assembly to  
30 the President of the United States, the Majority and Minority Leaders  
31 of the United States Senate, the Speaker and Minority Leader of the  
32 United States House of Representatives, and the members of the New  
33 Jersey congressional delegation.

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36 **STATEMENT**

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38 This resolution urges Congress to establish a student loan  
39 forgiveness program for doctors, nurses, and emergency medical  
40 services employees that provide services during the COVID-19  
41 pandemic.

42 Doctors, nurses, and EMS employees respond to, care for, and  
43 protect American citizens from illness and injury every day.  
44 However, the already stressful job of doctors, nurses, and EMS  
45 employees is exacerbated during crises, such as the COVID-19  
46 pandemic. COVID-19 has increased the workloads of healthcare  
47 professionals and has forced doctors, nurses, and EMS employees  
48 to risk their lives while providing professional care services for

1 others amidst this dangerous disease. Healthcare professionals  
2 continue to protect and care for their patients, during the COVID-19  
3 pandemic, amongst limited resources and shortages of protective  
4 equipment.

5 The bravery, courageousness, selflessness, and ceaseless work  
6 ethic of the nation's healthcare professionals, during the COVID-19  
7 pandemic, should be rewarded. Although there is no reward that  
8 equates to the risks these healthcare professionals have taken,  
9 during the COVID-19 pandemic, the United States can provide  
10 monetary aid to these healthcare professionals, which will help  
11 minimize the massive student loan debts these healthcare  
12 professionals have accumulated over the years as a result of lengthy  
13 education. Establishing a student loan forgiveness program for  
14 doctors, nurses, and EMS employees who provided services during  
15 the COVID-19 pandemic will reduce financial stressors among  
16 these hardworking healthcare professionals and show them that the  
17 United States acknowledges and appreciates their hard work during  
18 this challenging time.