

**[DISCUSSION DRAFT]**119TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION**H. R.** \_\_\_\_\_

To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to expand the definition of  
professional degree.

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**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

Mrs. DINGELL introduced the following bill; which was referred to the  
Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

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**A BILL**

To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to expand  
the definition of professional degree.

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 “\_\_\_\_\_ Act  
5       of 2025”.

6       **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7       Congress finds the following:

8               (1) On November 21, 2025, the Department of  
9       Education modified the definition of “professional

1 degree” programs eligible for Federal student aid  
2 programs, removing many health, education, and  
3 graduate credentials from the list of definitions at  
4 the detriment of students with disabilities.

5 (2) This reclassification is part of a new stu-  
6 dent loan policy and is expected to take effect on  
7 July 1, 2026.

8 (3) Students in affected programs could now  
9 lose their qualification for certain aid or debt pro-  
10 grams which experts fear would exacerbate work-  
11 force shortages. These fields are the foundation of  
12 the United States economy, ensuring that the Na-  
13 tion remains safe, educated, and healthy.

14 **SEC. 3. PROFESSIONAL DEGREE DEFINED.**

15 Section 455(a)(4)(C) of the Higher Education Act of  
16 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1087e(a)(4)(C)) is amended—

17 (1) in clause (ii), by striking “, as defined  
18 under section 668.2 of title 34, Code of Federal  
19 Regulations (as in effect on the date of enactment  
20 of this paragraph),”; and

21 (2) by adding at the end the following:

22 “(iii) **PROFESSIONAL DEGREE.**—In  
23 this paragraph, the term ‘professional de-  
24 gree’ has the meaning given the term in  
25 section 668.2 of title 34, Code of Federal

1 Regulations (as in effect on the date of en-  
2 actment of this paragraph), except that  
3 such term also includes the following de-  
4 grees:

5 “(I) Nursing (A.D.N., R.N., or  
6 B.S.N.).

7 “(II) Occupational Therapy  
8 (M.O.T.).

9 “(III) Physical Therapy  
10 (D.P.T.).

11 “(IV) Social Work (M.S.W.).

12 “(V) Accounting (MAcc).

13 “(VI) Architecture (M.Arch.).

14 “(VII) Special and Secondary  
15 Education (M.Ed., M.S.Ed., or  
16 M.A.T.).

17 “(VIII) Music Education (M.S.  
18 or M.M.E.).

19 “(IX) World Languages (M.Ed.).

20 “(X) Public Health (M.P.H.).”.