

National Environmental
Health Association

Questions & Answers from the NEHA Web6(H)-5 (s)3.5 (f)3.2 (1)6.1 (e)2.21

Q. How does the Bill look in terms of other congresspeople that have signed on as co-sponsors? Does this appear to be a partisan or bi-partisan favored bill?

A. The bill currently has nine cosponsors. Although no Republicans have signed on at this time, some have expressed interest.

Q. Would this loan forgiveness apply only to federal education loans? Not private loans?

A. Private loans would not be covered. Congress has little authority over private loans.

Q. Would the loan forgiveness be for those working in rural areas or where EH services are lacking only?

hazards.”

Q. Would this bill include the US Territories?

A. Yes, the bill applies to all U.S. States, Territories, and the District of Columbia.

Q. How will you address the issue of 99% of federal loan forgiveness applications being rejected? Allowing environmental health professions to apply does not promise applications being granted.

A. The application processes for loan forgiveness are improving. Passage of this bill would add environmental health workers and ensure that the environmental health workforce is included in public health loan forgiveness. Environmental Health is still not considered an essential service by policymakers on the federal, state, and local level.

Q. Given the current atmosphere in Congress between Democrats and Republicans what are the chances of getting this legislation passed?

A. All legislation in Congress faces challenges in getting passed. The introduction of HR 2661 highlights the environmental health workforce before Congress and assists all aspects of the workforce. The best way to pass it is to contact your member of Congress to express your support.

Q. Have we been able to fold-in parts of it into the Infrastructure Bill?

A. Unfortunately, both bills addressing infrastructure are not accepting additional provisions. Language found in the bill may be included in other legislation in the future, however.

Q. Many officials

A.

- Q. Loan forgiveness for all registered environmental health professionals regardless of if they work federally or locally would go a long way for recruitment and wage equalization at the local and tribal health levels.
- A. The law would ensure that loan forgiveness applies to apply to “public health workers who investigate and assess hazardous environmental agents in various environmental settings and develop, promote, and enforce guidelines, policies, and interventions to con

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