

STATEMENTS OF SUPPORT FOR THE PUBLIC SERVICE REWARD ACT

“AccessLex Institute is pleased to offer its support for the Public Service Reward Act, which would improve the Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) program by expanding loan and payment plan eligibility, providing incremental loan forgiveness, and streamlining access to and the administration of the PSLF program,” **AccessLex** said in a statement. “PSLF has been a vital recruitment tool encouraging the best and the brightest to serve millions of Americans through public service careers that benefit communities across this country, especially those in high-need and rural areas. ... Broadening PSLF eligibility requirements to include more loans and repayment plans will reduce the number of denials borrowers currently experience, restore the public’s trust in the program, and incentivize people to enter into public service careers.”

“Public service workers dedicate their lives and make great sacrifices to keep our communities strong. They don’t get rich, but they consider it a calling,” said **American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees President Lee Saunders**. “But too many are forced to take on overwhelming debt just to get the skills required to do these essential jobs that we all depend on. On behalf of 1.4 million AFSCME members, I am grateful to Representatives Clyburn and Boyle for their efforts to reform the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program. Debt relief is critical to helping more working families enjoy greater economic security. And it will improve recruitment and retention at a time when so many public service jobs are still vacant.”

“While the Biden administration continues to work tirelessly to ensure the promise of Public Service Loan Forgiveness is a promise kept to those who’ve dedicated their lives to helping others, too many remain ensnared in a nightmare of red tape,” said **American Federation of Teachers President Randi Weingarten**. “Reps. James Clyburn and Brendan Boyle’s Public Service Reward Act simplifies, codifies, updates and improves PSLF to make it an automatic and seamless process for borrowers, providing more incremental relief along the way to full forgiveness. It incentivizes public service work, drives down the costs these workers incur to do jobs that are so important to the public, and provides them with peace of mind. These changes will further improve the PSLF program and send a clear signal to our educators, nurses, first responders and other public service workers that they can do

the work they love and their communities need—without being pauperized by student loan debt. We urge swift passage of the Public Service Reward Act.”

“The Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) strongly supports the Public Service Reward Act. The Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) program makes it possible for social workers to address many of the challenges facing society,” said **CSWE President and CEO Darla Spence Coffey**. “This legislation will help ensure that social workers have an opportunity to pursue their passion in serving their communities and advancing social and economic justice, without the fear of attaining mountainous debt. As Congress looks to address issues with college affordability, now is the time to transform existing programs like PSLF to better support social work professionals.”

“Equal Justice Works is pleased to support the Public Service Reward Act. Improving Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) by ensuring that it is accessible and achievable is critical to attracting and retaining qualified public service professionals, including public interest attorneys,” said **Aoife Delargy Lowe, Vice President of Law School Engagement and Advocacy at Equal Justice Works**. “Public service professionals are providing critical services in communities across our country, contributing to our public health, safety, and education. PSLF is the only loan forgiveness program specifically for those in public service, but for it to work, it must be reliable, accessible, and achievable. Streamlining access and administration of PSLF and expanding eligible federal loans will ensure that this program works for those serving our communities.”

“Over the past year, the time-limited Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) waiver has been a huge success, providing loan forgiveness to more than 211,000 public service workers and counting,” said **Marc Egan, Director of Government Relations, National Education Association**. “However, with the waiver’s expiration on October 31st comes a real need to create permanent improvements to the program, so we may continue honoring the service of our educators and public sector workers. The Public Service Reward Act does just that and we applaud Rep. Clyburn and Rep. Boyle for their leadership in the creation of this bill.”

“We commend Representatives Clyburn and Boyle’s legislative action to address the outstanding issues that have plagued the Public Service Loan Forgiveness program for over a decade,” said **Mervyn Jones, Managing Director at Young Invincibles**. “This will help ensure public service workers have access to the full benefits of

PSLF. The last two years serve as a testament to the indispensable nature of public service. Our nation functions everyday thanks to the public servants that dedicate their labor to the public good, from teachers in the classroom to firefighters on call. It is imperative we reward their work, and this legislation helps us move closer to that goal.”