

Overview of Legislative Proposals to Address Federal Student Loan Limits



Three bills currently under consideration address federal student loan limits for graduate and professional students. While they share a common theme of modifying borrowing caps, they differ in scope and approach:

- **H.R. 6677/S. 4039 – the Professional Degree Access Restoration Act:** Sponsored by Rep. Ritchie Torres (D-N.Y.) and Sen. Angela Alsobrooks (D-Md.) respectively, these functionally identical bills would restore federal student loan limits for graduate students to the levels under the Higher Education Act of 1965. Specifically, they would set borrowing caps at \$50,000 annually and \$200,000 in total, reversing changes made under the One Big Beautiful Bill Act.
Key point: Focuses broadly on restoring prior loan limits for graduate students.
- **H.R. 6574 – the Loan Equity for Advanced Professional Act:** Sponsored by Rep. Tim Kennedy (D-N.Y.), this legislation similarly proposes \$50,000 annual and \$200,000 aggregate loan limits. Like H.R. 6677/S. 4039, this bill aims to preserve pre-existing borrowing levels, but explicitly applies to both graduate and professional students, and references earlier proposed changes from the RISE Committee.
Key similarity: Matches the same loan caps as H.R. 6677/S. 4039.
Key difference: More explicitly includes professional students and is framed as a response to a different policy proposal.
- **H.R. 6718 – the Professional Student Degree Act:** Sponsored by Rep. Mike Lawler (R-N.Y.), this bill takes a different approach. Rather than changing loan limits overall, it modifies which degree programs qualify for the existing \$50,000 annual and \$200,000 aggregate caps. It would expand eligibility to include additional professional degrees, including physical therapy.
Key difference: Does not change the loan amounts but instead focuses on which professional degrees qualify for loan limits, not the limits themselves.