

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. _____

To amend the definition of professional student in the Higher Education Act of 1965.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. MERKLEY introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To amend the definition of professional student in the Higher Education Act of 1965.

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 “Nursing is a Profes-
5 sional Degree Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. PROFESSIONAL STUDENT AND PROFESSIONAL DE-**
7 **GREE DEFINED.**

8 Section 455(a)(4)(C) of the Higher Education Act of
9 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1087e(a)(4)(C)) is amended—

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

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

6 “(iii) PROFESSIONAL DEGREE.—In
7 this paragraph, the term ‘professional de-
8 gree’ —

9 “(I) means a degree that sig-
10 nifies both completion of the academic
11 requirements for beginning practice in
12 a given profession (for which profes-
13 sional licensure is also commonly re-
14 quired), and a level of professional
15 skill beyond that normally required
16 for a bachelor’s degree; and

17 “(II) includes each of the fol-
18 lowing:

19 “(aa) Pharmacy
20 (Pharm.D.).

21 “(bb) Dentistry (D.D.S. or
22 D.M.D.).

23 “(cc) Veterinary Medicine
24 (D.V.M.).

- 1 “(dd) Chiropractic (D.C. or
- 2 D.C.M.).
- 3 “(ee) Law (L.L.B. or J.D.).
- 4 “(ff) Medicine (M.D.).
- 5 “(gg) Optometry (O.D.).
- 6 “(hh) Osteopathic Medicine
- 7 or Osteopathy (D.O.).
- 8 “(ii) Podiatric Medicine or
- 9 Podiatry (D.P.M., D.P., or
- 10 Pod.D.).
- 11 “(jj) Theology or Theo-
- 12 logical Studies (M.Div. or
- 13 M.H.L.)
- 14 “(kk) Clinical Psychology
- 15 (Psy.D. or Ph.D.).
- 16 “(ll) Nursing (MSN, DNP,
- 17 DNAP, or Ph.D).
- 18 “(mm) Any other degree
- 19 that meets the requirements of
- 20 subclause (I), as determined by
- 21 the Secretary.”.