

Policy Committee of the National Muslim COVID-19 Task Force



May 14, 2020

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
U.S. Capitol Building, Room S-230
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
United States House of Representatives
U.S. Capitol Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate
U.S. Capitol Building, Room S-224
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
U.S. Capitol Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Letter to Support the Student Debt Forgiveness for Frontline Health Care Workers Act

Dear Majority Leader McConnell, Minority Leader Schumer, Speaker Pelosi, and Minority Leader McCarthy:

For the fourth stimulus package, the Policy Committee of the National Muslim COVID-19 Taskforce recommends that Congress enact legislation to forgive the student loans of frontline health care professionals fighting the pandemic. These heroes are making tremendous sacrifices of their health and time to protect American lives. As such, we must alleviate their crippling student financial burdens. We are asking you to pass the Student Debt Forgiveness for Frontline Health Care Workers Act of 2020.

The average debt doctors were saddled with after medical school was \$200,000 in 2019, according to the [Association of American Medical Colleges](#). Add in the inability to work while attending medical or nursing school full-time and still having to pay for living costs out-of-pocket, and the true costs are astronomical.

On May 6, 2020, Rep. Carolyn Maloney (D-NY) introduced new legislation to forgive public and private student loan debt for frontline health care workers. The **Student Debt Forgiveness for Frontline Health Care Workers Act**, says Maloney, will alleviate a financial burden for medical professionals and help attract medical professionals in various specialties to lend their expertise to the response to COVID-19.

We recommend that the provisions of this bill be effectively implemented in the fourth stimulus package. It is important that both public and private student loans incurred from medical school or other professional education be forgiven, and the amount of loans relieved should not have a cap. Additionally, we recommend a special commission be created to determine which workers qualify for the debt relief; however, it should not exclude the eligibility of doctors, nurses, technicians, nursing aides, and researchers working toward treatments and vaccines.

We urge Congress to take the aforementioned steps to ensure that frontline healthcare workers are focused on alleviating the COVID-19 pandemic and not having to worry about financial costs related to student loan debt.

Sincerely,

Policy Committee Of National Muslim Covid-19 Taskforce:

American Muslim Health Professionals (AMHP)

Muslim Public Affairs Council (MPAC)

Islamic Medical Association of North American (IMANA)

Other Signatories:

Women Neurologists Group

Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR)

Muslim Caucus of America

Amita Health

Naseeha Muslim Youth Helpline

Green Muslims

Muslim American Society (MAS)

Islamic relief USA

Imamia Medics International (IMI)

Fiqh Council

UMR

Penny Appeal USA

Islamic Society of North America (ISNA)

Association of Muslim Chaplains

American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC)

American Muslim Community Foundation