

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO.161

Reps. Haadsma, Tyrone Carter, Coleman, Garza, Sowerby, Shannon, Breen, Bolden, Steenland, Rogers, Tate, Liberati, Clemente, Witwer, Brenda Carter, Cynthia Johnson, Cavanagh, Pohutsky, Brabec and Steckloff offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to support the U.S. Department of Education's
2 decision to extend the pause on federal student loan payments.

3 Whereas, There is a student loan debt crisis in the United
4 States, with more than 40 million people holding over \$1.5 trillion
5 in federal student loan debt. The average debt owed tops \$30,000.
6 Student loan debt is now the second highest consumer debt category
7 behind mortgage debt; and

8 Whereas, The immense student loan debt burdens not only those
9 people holding the debt, but the entire economy. Because of this
10 debt, young Americans are struggling to become homeowners, save for

1 retirement, and contribute to the economy in other ways. Borrowers
2 who face difficulty paying their debt face delinquency and default.
3 Moreover, borrowers of color are disproportionately impacted by
4 student loan debt; and

5 Whereas, The COVID-19 Pandemic has exacerbated the burden of
6 student loan debt. The economic damage brought by the pandemic has
7 made it harder for people to find employment and created additional
8 expenses, making it more difficult to pay already onerous student
9 loan bills; and

10 Whereas, In response to the COVID-19 Pandemic, the U.S.
11 Department of Education initiated a pause on federal student loan
12 payments in March of 2020 in order to provide emergency relief to
13 borrowers under financial strain; and

14 Whereas, While the relief was set to expire in September of
15 2021, the Biden Administration extended the pause until January 31,
16 2022. The U.S. Department of Education has indicated that this will
17 be the final extension of the payment pause; and

18 Whereas, The U.S. Department of Education extended the
19 emergency relief to allow borrowers time to transition back into
20 repayment and reduce the risk of default and delinquency. The
21 extension of the payment pause is vital for millions of hard-
22 working Americans who have suffered from financial hardship due to
23 the COVID-19 Pandemic, and allows them to focus on their families,
24 health, and professions instead of student loans; now, therefore,
25 be it

26 Resolved by the House of Representatives, That we support the
27 U.S. Department of Education's decision to extend the pause on
28 federal student loan payments; and be it further

29 Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the

1 President of the United States, the U.S. Secretary of Education,
2 the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the
3 President of the United States Senate, and the members of the
4 Michigan congressional delegation.