

## WHAT THEY'RE SAYING:

### **Bonamici, Merkley, Mannion, Underwood, Alsobrooks Introduce Resolution to Overturn Student Loan Rule**

June 4, 2026

---

#### **American Nurses Association**

"It's ironic that we find ourselves here at the start of National Nurses Week, a time when we are meant to celebrate and honor the very people who keep our health system running. And yet, the Department of Education has chosen to make it harder for nurses to advance their education and their careers," **said Jennifer Mensik Kennedy, PhD, MBA, RN, NEA-BC, FAAN, President of the American Nurses Association.** "I want to thank Rep. Bonamici, Rep. Mannion, and Rep. Underwood for introducing a Congressional Review Act resolution to repeal the Department of Education's final rule. As nurses, we are used to using every tool we have to treat our patients, and we need to use every tool at our disposal to repeal this rule. Otherwise, the effects of this rule will be felt in communities across the country, especially in rural areas where nurse practitioners, midwives, and nurse anesthetists are often the only providers of core healthcare services."

#### **National Association of Social Workers**

"The National Association of Social Workers (NASW) is thrilled to endorse Congresswoman Bonamici's Congressional Review Act in response to the Department of Education's RISE Committee Final Rule. After receiving over 80,000 comments to their proposed rule, including NASW comments with a petition signed by nearly 30,000 social workers, the Trump Administration did not make any substantive changes to the designation of a professional degree. By instituting lower federal student loan limits for social work students, the Trump Administration cut off the access that makes it possible to educate and prepare social workers who are the largest providers of mental health services in the nation. Social work is a profession. It requires a graduate degree, supervised clinical hours, and state licensure. NASW, along with our Congressional champions, will continue to fight for the recognition social workers deserve and ensure that the cost of an education doesn't prevent a dedicated professional from saving lives," **said Anthony Estreet, PhD, MBA, LCSW-C, CEO, NASW.**

#### **American Association of Colleges of Nursing**

"AACN applauds Rep. Suzanne Bonamici, Rep. John Mannion, Rep. Lauren Underwood, and Congressional leaders for pushing back on the Department of Education's final rule and taking decisive action to champion our nation's nursing professionals," **said Dr. Deborah Trautman, President and CEO of the American Association of Colleges of Nursing.** "This joint resolution effectively suspends restrictive student loan caps for master's and doctoral nursing students and keeps all options on the table to ensure federal support for meeting the nation's nursing workforce needs."

## **National Education Association**

“Students do better when educators have the training, support, and opportunities they need to grow in their professions,” **said National Education Association President Becky Pringle.** “This administration rule is making it harder for teachers, school counselors, nurses, social workers, and other public service professionals to pursue advanced degrees by pushing many of them towards predatory high-interest loans and deeper debt. At a time when schools across the country are struggling with staffing shortages, we should be removing barriers to the profession, not creating new ones. Repealing this rule is essential to restoring fairness and ensuring aspiring educators are not priced out of serving their communities.”

## **American Association of Nurse Practitioners**

“On behalf of the American Association of Nurse Practitioners (AANP), we thank Representatives Bonamici, Mannion and Underwood and Senators Merkley and Alsobrooks for their efforts to introduce legislation that will overturn the recent final rule for the Reimagining and Improving Student Education Federal Student Loan Program,” **said AANP President Valerie Fuller, PhD, DNP.** “The final rule written by the Department of Education will have a devastating impact on our nation’s health care workforce. It is critical that we work together to ensure that nursing students have access to the necessary federal student loans to pursue their education and ultimately deliver care in their communities. It’s time we invest in our next generation of health care providers.”

## **American Association of Nurse Anesthesiology**

“On behalf of the American Association of Nurse Anesthesiology (AANA), we thank Representatives Suzanne Bonamici and Lauren Underwood for leading the efforts to rescind the Department of Education’s misguided and harmful student loan caps on advanced nursing education. The Department’s refusal to classify Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs) and other APRN degrees as professional, despite meeting the necessary criteria, will significantly disrupt the workforce pipeline and worsen provider shortages nationwide by putting graduate education out of reach for many qualified nurses. The impact will be felt most in rural and underserved communities where CRNAs are often the primary anesthesia providers. This legislation is a critical step to protect patients’ access to safe, timely care, and we look forward to working with these champions to ensure its passage.”

## **National League for Nursing**

“The regulations issued by the Department of Education will significantly limit nursing students’ ability to advance their education and become the advanced practitioners, educators, and scientists our nation needs. It must be overturned,” **said National League for Nursing President and CEO Dr. Beverly Malone.** “The NLN applauds Senators Merkley and Alsobrooks and Representatives Bonamici, Mannion, and Underwood for their efforts to support and protect nursing education and to ensure that our nursing students can obtain the financial resources they need to pursue their professional careers.”

## **National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners**

“By refusing to recognize nursing as a professional degree, the Department of Education’s federal student loan program final regulations would have a devastating impact on the education of the pediatric advanced practice nurses, who would be denied access to the financial aid they need to pursue careers in nursing,” **said National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners (NAPNAP) president Dr. Felesia Bowen.** “We must take steps to prevent this rule from going into effect. Therefore, NAPNAP is grateful to Senators Merkley and Alsobrooks and Reps. Bonamici, Underwood, and Mannion for proposing this resolution to overturn this damaging rule.”

“The American College of Nurse-Midwives strongly supports the joint resolution led by midwifery and nursing champions Representatives Suzanne Bonamici and Lauren Underwood to overturn the Department of Education’s harmful final rule,” **said Peter Johnson, CNM, PhD, FACNM, FAAN,**

## **American College of Nurse-Midwives**

“The American College of Nurse-Midwives strongly supports the joint resolution led by midwifery and nursing champions Representatives Suzanne Bonamici and Lauren Underwood to overturn the Department of Education’s harmful final rule,” **said Peter Johnson, CNM, PhD, FACNM, FAAN, President of the American College of Nurse-Midwives.** “At a time when our nation faces a growing maternity and primary care workforce shortage, we should be removing barriers not creating them. Excluding post-baccalaureate nursing and midwifery programs from the definition of professional degree programs undermines access to higher education, weakens our workforce pipeline, and ultimately limits care for the families and communities midwives and nurses serve. Nursing and midwifery are essential, highly skilled professions that deserve full recognition and support. ACNM urges Congress to act swiftly to restore equitable access to student aid and strengthen the future of maternal health care in the United States.”

## **National Board for Certified Counselors**

"As the nation faces unprecedented mental health challenges—with over 60 million Americans experiencing mental illness and 14 million reporting suicidal ideation—reducing the pipeline of trained mental health counselors is an unconscionable policy,” **said Jolie A. Long, Legislative Research Manager at the National Board for Certified Counselors.** The DOE RISE rule will accomplish exactly that by making graduate counseling education financially inaccessible. Mental health counselors are essential to addressing this crisis. We urge Congress to support the Congressional Review Act resolution introduced by Representatives Bonamici, Mannion, and Underwood, to overturn this damaging regulation and protect the mental health workforce