



May 2, 2018

ATTORNEY GENERAL MADIGAN APPLAUDS BILL PASSAGE TO PREVENT STUDENT LOAN BORROWERS FROM LOSING PROFESSIONAL LICENSES

Chicago — Attorney General Lisa Madigan today applauded the Illinois Senate for passing legislation that would prevent a student loan borrower’s professional license from being suspended if they are behind on their payments.

Madigan and Sen. Scott Bennett initiated Senate Bill 2439, the Career Preservation and Student Loan Repayment Act, to prevent the state from suspending or terminating the professional licenses of student loan borrowers who are behind on their monthly payments. SB 2439 passed the Senate unanimously and will now be considered by the House.

“Preventing a student loan borrower’s ability to earn a living makes it even more difficult – if not impossible – for them to repay their debt,” Madigan said. “With the level of student loan debt at historic highs, we must ensure borrowers have every opportunity to repay their loans and build their careers and their lives.”

“Student loan borrowers are better able to support themselves and their families while repaying their student loans when they are working in the good paying jobs for which they trained,” Bennett said. “This is a commonsense measure, and I appreciate the Attorney General’s advocacy on behalf of students and their families.”

Currently in Illinois, dozens of occupations are impacted by state laws that allow the state to revoke or suspend a person’s professional license for being behind on student loan payments, including teachers, engineers, veterinarians, dieticians, marriage and family therapists and occupational therapists.

Attorney General Madigan is a national leader in investigating and enforcing consumer protection violations in the higher education field. Last year, Madigan initiated legislation to enact the Illinois Student Loan Bill of Rights to protect students from widespread abuses and failures by student loan servicing companies that prevent borrowers from being able to repay. Madigan also filed a lawsuit against one of the largest student loan servicers, Navient, for similar abuses in the student loan servicing industry.

Madigan has investigated for-profit schools for fraud and repeatedly called on the U.S. Department of Education to immediately forgive federal loans of students who attended for-profit schools the U.S. Department of Education has deemed fraudulent. Madigan has also testified before Congress and urged the U.S. Department of Education to crack down on the many abuses and scams facing student borrowers.

Madigan also instituted a free Student Loan Helpline to provide student borrowers with resources about repayment options, avoiding default or how to file a complaint about loan servicing at (800) 455-2456 (TTY: 1-800-964-3013). More information can be found on her [website](#).

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