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## MADIGAN APPLAUDS SUPPORT FOR BILL TO PREVENT STUDENT LOAN BORROWERS FROM LOSING PROFESSIONAL LICENSES

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

Madigan initiated Senate Bill 2439, the Career Preservation and Student Loan Repayment Act, to prevent the state from suspending or terminating professional licenses of student loan borrowers who are behind on their monthly payments. SB 2439, which is sponsored by Rep. Carol Ammons, passed the House with strong bipartisan support and will now be sent to the governor.

"There are over 44 million Americans who in total have over \$1.4 trillion in outstanding student loan debt," Madigan said. "We should have policies that allow them to support themselves and repay their loans. Taking away debtors' licenses punishes and prevents them from earning enough to live and make their loan payments. It is nonsensical."

"Illinois' current practice of suspending the professional licenses of borrowers who are unable to make monthly student loan payments runs contrary to our goal of helping people manage their debt so that they can buy homes, start families and invest in their communities," Ammons said. "I would like to thank the Attorney General for working to end a policy I think we can all agree is counterintuitive."

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 make it difficult for borrowers to repay their loans. Madigan also filed a lawsuit against one of the largest student loan servicers in the country, 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 Department 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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