

FEDERAL UPDATE: WHAT'S HAPPENING IN WASHINGTON



AccessLex Spring Sync **Workshop**

[#AccessLexSpringSync2025](#)

Introductions



Monica Konaté, J.D.
AccessLex Institute®
Senior Policy Manager



AccessLex Spring **Sync Workshop**



Agenda

- ✔ Budget Reconciliation
- ✔ Graduate Loan Legislation
- ✔ “Skinny Budget” Proposal
- ✔ White House Executive Orders
- ✔ Negotiated Rulemaking
- ✔ SAVE Plan Lawsuits

Budget Reconciliation

- Graduate loans
- Income-driven repayment (IDR)
- Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF)



AccessLex Spring **Sync Workshop**

Budget Reconciliation

	The Student Success and Taxpayer Savings Plan
Treatment of Graduate Lending	<p>Grad PLUS: eliminates the Grad PLUS Loan program</p> <p>Annual Cap: limits the amount of federal student aid a student can receive annually at the <i>median cost of attendance for that degree program nationally</i></p> <p>Aggregate Cap: limits the amount of federal student aid a student can receive in the aggregate at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Undergraduate student - \$50,000• Graduate student - \$100,000• Professional student - \$150,000 <p>Lifetime Cap: caps the lifetime amount any student can borrow at \$200,000</p>



AccessLex Spring **Sync Workshop**

Budget Reconciliation

	The Student Success and Taxpayer Savings Plan
Treatment of Repayment	<p>Changes the Standard Repayment timeline:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 10 years for less than \$25,000; 15 years for \$25,000-\$49,999; 20 years for \$50,000-\$99,999; and 25 years for \$100,000 or more <p>Creates new "Repayment Assistance Plan" which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Basis monthly payments on Adjusted Gross Income (AGI):<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ For those earning \$10,000 or less - \$120; for those earning between \$10,001 - \$20,000 - 1% of AGI; and a 1% increase for each additional \$10,000 earned◦ Maxes out at 10% for those earning over \$100,000◦ \$50 reduction from monthly payment per dependent child◦ Minimum payment of \$10 per month• Provides student loan forgiveness after 360 (30 years) qualifying monthly payments• Waives any unpaid monthly interest <p>Transitions borrowers who are in an income-driven repayment (IDR) plan prior to enactment of this bill to the income-based repayment plan.</p> <p>Sunsets all other IDR plans</p> <p>Sunsets economic hardship and unemployment deferments</p>



AccessLex Spring **Sync** Workshop

Budget Reconciliation

	The Student Success and Taxpayer Savings Plan
Treatment of Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF)	Excludes time in a medical residency or dental internship from counting towards PSLF for new borrowers after June 30, 2025.



AccessLex Spring **Sync** Workshop

Graduate Loan Legislation

HERO Act

- Rep. Chip Roy (R-TX)
- Sen. Mike Lee (R-UT)
- *Annual: \$18,500*
- *Aggregate: \$74,000*

GOAL Act

- Sen. Tommy Tuberville (R-AL)
- *Annual: \$40,500*
- *Aggregate: \$130,000*

“Skinny Budget” **Proposal**

- Child Care Access Means Parents in School (CCAMPIS)
 - Eliminates the \$75 million program
- Title III - Strengthening Institutions
 - Eliminates Title III Strengthening Institutions program
- ED Program Administration
 - Requests a \$127 million, or 30 percent reduction over 2025 levels



AccessLex Spring **Sync Workshop**

White House **Executive Orders**

PSLF Qualified Employers

- Limit which employers are eligible for PSLF
- Regulatory process
- Nothing is changing now

Close Education Dept.

- Requires act of Congress
- Recent RIF and cancelling of grants
- Move student aid to SBA?

Negotiated **Rulemaking**

Topics

- PSLF-qualifying employer
- Pay As You Earn (PAYE)
- Income-Contingent Repayment (ICR)
- Other topics to streamline financial aid program

Process

- In-person hearing – April 29
- Virtual hearing – May 1
- Written comments – May 5
- Negotiator nominations open
- Rulemaking – June 30/July 2



AccessLex Spring **Sync Workshop**

SAVE Plan **Lawsuits**

- State attorneys general filed challenge to SAVE, arguing Secretary lacks authority
- ED blocked from granting loan forgiveness under SAVE
- Court then ruled that ED must **stop implementing SAVE in its entirety** while the case is ongoing



AccessLex Spring **Sync Workshop**

POLICY RESOURCES



AccessLex Spring **Sync Workshop**

#MakeTheCase Resources

- Contact Members of Congress
- Track relevant legislation
- Explore advocacy resources



AccessLex.org/Advocacy

AccessLex Spring **Sync Workshop**



QUESTIONS?