H. R. ______

To prohibit States from suspending, revoking, or denying State-issued professional licenses or issuing penalties due to student default.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Ms. SHALALA introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on ____________________

A BILL

To prohibit States from suspending, revoking, or denying State-issued professional licenses or issuing penalties due to student default.

1 Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-
2 tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,
3 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.
4 This Act may be cited as the “Protecting Job Opportu-
5 nities for Borrowers Act” or the “Protecting JOBs  
6 Act”.
SEC. 2. PROHIBITION AGAINST SUSPENSION, REVOCATION,
OR DENIAL OF STATE-ISSUED PROFESSIONAL
LICENSES OR PENALTIES DUE TO STUDENT
DEFAULT.

(a) HIGHER EDUCATION ACT OF 1965 LOANS.—Part
B of title I of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20
U.S.C. 1011 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end
the following:

“SEC. 124. PROHIBITION AGAINST SUSPENSION, REVOCATION,
OR DENIAL OF STATE-ISSUED PROFESSIONAL LICENSES OR PENALTIES DUE TO
STUDENT DEFAULT.

“(a) Prohibition.—Beginning 2 years after the
date of enactment of the Protecting Job Opportunities for
Borrowers Act, a State that receives assistance under this
Act may not suspend, revoke, or deny the approval or re-
newal of a State-issued license described in subsection (b)
or issue a fine or other penalty with respect to an indi-
vidual based solely on such individual’s default or delin-
quency on a loan made, insured, or guaranteed under title
IV.

“(b) Types of Licenses.—A State-issued license
described in this subsection means any of the following:

“(1) A State-issued driver’s license (including
any State-issued document permitting a specific in-
dividual to operate one or more types of motorized
vehicles, such as a motorcycle, car, truck, or bus on
a public road).

“(2) A State-issued teaching license.

“(3) A State-issued professional license involved
in or affecting interstate commerce (including any li-
cense, permit, certificate, registration, charter, au-
thority or similar form of permission required for
lawful employment in a particular career field).

“(e) INJUNCTIVE RELIEF.—Any individual aggrieved
as a result of a violation of subsection (a) may bring a
civil action in an appropriate district court of the United
States to obtain prospective injunctive relief against an in-
dividual State officer in the officer's official capacity.”.

(b) HEALTH EDUCATION LOANS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—A State may not suspend,
revoke, or deny the approval or renewal of a State-
issued license described in section 124(b) of the
Higher Education Act of 1965 or issue a fine or
other penalty with respect to an individual based
solely on such individual's default or delinquency on
a Health Education Assistance Loan or Primary
Care Loan made under part A of title VII of the
Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 292 et seq.).

(2) INJUNCTIVE RELIEF.—Any individual ag-
grieved as a result of a violation of paragraph (1)
may bring a civil action in an appropriate district
court of the United States to obtain prospective in-
junctive relief against an individual State officer in
the officer’s official capacity.