

119TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

S. _____

To amend the definition of professional student in the Higher Education
Act of 1965.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. MERKLEY (for himself and Mr. WICKER) introduced the following bill;
which was read twice and referred to the Committee on

A BILL

To amend the definition of professional student in the Higher
Education Act of 1965.

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 “Nursing is a Profes-
5 sional Degree Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. PROFESSIONAL STUDENT AND PROFESSIONAL DE-**
7 **GREE DEFINED.**

8 Section 455(a)(4)(C) of the Higher Education Act of
9 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1087e(a)(4)(C)) is amended—

1 (1) in clause (ii), by striking “, as defined
2 under section 668.2 of title 34, Code of Federal
3 Regulations (as in effect on the date of enactment
4 of this paragraph),”; and

5 (2) by adding at the end the following:

6 “(iii) PROFESSIONAL DEGREE.—In
7 this paragraph, the term ‘professional de-
8 gree’ —

9 “(I) means a degree that sig-
10 nifies both completion of the academic
11 requirements for beginning practice in
12 a given profession (for which profes-
13 sional licensure is also commonly re-
14 quired), and a level of professional
15 skill beyond that normally required
16 for a bachelor’s degree; and

17 “(II) includes each of the fol-
18 lowing:

19 “(aa) Pharmacy
20 (Pharm.D.).

21 “(bb) Dentistry (D.D.S. or
22 D.M.D.).

23 “(cc) Veterinary Medicine
24 (D.V.M.).

- 1 “(dd) Chiropractic (D.C. or
2 D.C.M.).
- 3 “(ee) Law (L.L.B. or J.D.).
- 4 “(ff) Medicine (M.D.).
- 5 “(gg) Optometry (O.D.).
- 6 “(hh) Osteopathic Medicine
7 or Osteopathy (D.O.).
- 8 “(ii) Podiatric Medicine or
9 Podiatry (D.P.M., D.P., or
10 Pod.D.).
- 11 “(jj) Theology or Theo-
12 logical Studies (M.Div. or
13 M.H.L.)
- 14 “(kk) Clinical Psychology
15 (Psy.D. or Ph.D.).
- 16 “(ll) Nursing (MSN, DNP,
17 DNAP, or Ph.D.).
- 18 “(mm) Any other degree
19 that meets the requirements of
20 subclause (I), as determined by
21 the Secretary.”.