

HARVARD LAW SCHOOL STUDENT BODY SPRING TERM TWO THOUSAND EIGHTEEN

RESOLUTION NO. Res-201-005

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SUPPORTED BY: Public Interest Committee

A RESOLUTION TO: CALL UPON HARVARD LAW SCHOOL TO ENACT THE COALITION TO IMPROVE LIPP'S PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE LOW INCOME PROTECTION PLAN.

THE STUDENT BODY OF HARVARD LAW SCHOOL ENACTS:

WHEREAS, the average student debt load for students graduating from Harvard Law School now exceeds \$160,000;

WHEREAS, student debt is a major factor impacting HLS students' decisions about their career paths;

WHEREAS, since the 1970s, the Low Income Protection Plan (LIPP) has served an essential role in enabling HLS graduates to pay off their student loan debt while pursuing public interest and other lower-paying careers;

WHEREAS, many alumni on LIPP face difficulties in paying off their student loan debt while supporting themselves and their families;

WHEREAS, in September 2017, nearly 200 HLS alumni wrote a letter to the HLS administration calling for improvements to the program;

WHEREAS, since October 2017, the Coalition to Improve LIPP -- an organization of HLS students and alumni -- has researched loan repayment programs, engaged in conversations with the administration, and deliberated over policy proposals;

WHEREAS, the Coalition to Improve LIPP has developed a list of policy proposals, attached, that, if enacted, would reduce the financial strain that HLS graduates face;

WHEREAS, these proposals call for increasing transition time so that alumni on LIPP will be able to reasonably move between jobs without fear of losing LIPP coverage;

WHEREAS, these proposals call for improvements to LIPP's family leave and dependent care programs so as to enable graduates to care for their families;

WHEREAS, these proposals call for lifting the eligible undergraduate borrowing cap so that students from lower-income backgrounds, who face disproportionately high undergraduate student debt burdens, can pursue their preferred careers;

WHEREAS, these proposals call for lifting the cap on retirement asset protections to enable graduates to save for their futures while on LIPP;

WHEREAS, the Women's Law Association (WLA); Asian Pacific American Law Students Association (APALSA); Black Law Students Association (BALSA); La Alianza; Native American Law Students Association (NALSA); South Asian Law Students Association (SALSA); Middle Eastern Law Students Association (MELSA); Lambda; Queer and Trans People of Color (QTPOC); Jewish Law Students Association (JLSA); First-Generation Professionals at HLS; Prison Legal Assistance Project (PLAP); Labor and Employment Action Project (LEAP); Tenant Advocacy Project (TAP); Mississippi Delta Project (MDP); Progressive Jewish Alliance (PJA); HLS Urbanists; Food Law Society (FLS); Environmental Law Society (ELS); Harvard Health Law Society (HHLS); Civil Rights-Civil Liberties Law Review (CRCL); Journal on Law and Gender (JLG); Reparatory Justice Initiative (RJI); National Lawyers' Guild (NLG); HLS American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU); and the American Constitution Society (ACS) have all signed onto the Coalition to Improve LIPP's letter calling on Dean Manning to implement these proposals;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Harvard Law School Student Government calls upon the Harvard Law School administration to implement the Coalition to Improve LIPP's policy proposals.

PASSED IN THE STUDENT COUNCIL: March 7, 2018

VOTE TOTALS:

 12 YES

 NO

 ABSTAIN