

STUDENT LOAN INITIATIVES

In 2009, as part of a larger measure, Congress reauthorized the National Health Service Corps (NHSC) and NHSC Loan Repayment Program.

The Senate report to accompany the bill contained non-binding language that specified that the Loan Repayment Program be open to doctors of chiropractic and other health professionals. Specifically, the report language stated that the "...National Health Service Corps Loan Repayment Program, the term 'other health professionals' is intended to include optometrists, pharmacists, chiropractors, and physical therapists."

The NHSC has stated that are under no obligation to follow the Senate report language because it is non-binding. ACA believes otherwise and has been working with them in an attempt to change their opinion of the provision and permit DCs to apply for the loan repayment program.

ACA is also pushing another initiative to help DCs get relief from huge student loans. As part of the newly introduced [Access to Frontline Health Care Act \(HR 2891\)](#), doctors of chiropractic who practice in underserved areas would be eligible for student loan repayment. The legislation was introduced by Reps. Bruce Braley (D-Iowa) and Zack Space (D-Ohio). We are encouraging DCs and chiropractic students to [contact their Member of Congress](#) and urge them to cosponsor this bill, which would make its likelihood of success much greater.