

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM
SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE CIVIL SERVICE AND AGENCY REORGANIZATION
CONGRESSWOMAN JO ANN DAVIS, CHAIRWOMAN



MEDIA ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
October 28, 2003

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House Approves Student Loan Repayment Bill

*Legislation sponsored by Chairwoman Jo Ann Davis, Senator George Voinovich
Aimed at Helping Federal Government Recruit and Retain Talented Employees*

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Congresswoman Jo Ann Davis (R-Va.), the chairwoman of the House Government Reform Subcommittee on Civil Service and Agency Organization, is pleased to announce that the House of Representatives today approved legislation she had introduced to expand the government's student loan repayment program for federal workers.

The House joined the Senate in unanimously approving S. 926, the "Federal Employee Student Loan Assistance Act." The bill is identical to H.R. 3080, introduced by Chairwoman Davis in September. The Senate version was taken up by the House in order to speed the bill's final passage.

The legislation now heads to the White House for the President's signature.

The student loan repayment bill increases the maximum amount federal agencies can contribute to paying off their employees' student loans. Under the legislation, executive branch agencies can pay up to \$10,000 per year to an employee for student loan repayments, up from the current \$6,000 maximum. In total, agencies can contribute up to \$60,000 per employee, up from the existing \$40,000 ceiling.

In remarks on the House floor, Chairwoman Davis said passage of the legislation is critical to maintaining a strong civil service.

"How do we attract the most qualified people to government service, and how do we keep them once they've started? Recruiting, retaining and rewarding talented and hard-working individuals are at the very core of making our civil service the best it can be," Chairwoman Davis said. "All of us are surely aware of how expensive a college or graduate-level education can be. It is the prospect of these daunting student loans – \$50,000, \$75,000 or even more than \$100,000 – that can prevent public-service minded people from coming to work for the government. They simply can't afford it."

Chairwoman Davis noted that the legislation has no negative impact on the current budget, given that all funds used for the repayment program are derived from agencies' existing budgets.

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