



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF GRADUATE-PROFESSIONAL STUDENTS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Organization: [National Association of Graduate-Professional Students](http://NationalAssociationofGraduate-ProfessionalStudents.org)
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One Step Ahead...Many More Miles To Go

On Thursday, November 9, 2017, the Senate Finance Committee released the text of the Committee Chairman's markup of The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. The Senate version of the bill appears to preserve the various provisions of tax code that the House Ways & Means committee has proposed to repeal. These provisions include Sec. 117(d), Sec. 127, Interest Payments on Qualified Education Loans, Tuition and Related Expenses, and Interest on United States Savings Bonds. The Senate version also does not include a proposal to merge the AOTC, LLC and HOPE Scholarship yet. NAGPS applauds the efforts of the Senate Finance Committee to continue to make higher education, in particular graduate education, accessible to all.

While the Senate Finance Committee has taken a step in the positive direction, NAGPS will continue our efforts to ensure graduate students are taken into consideration when these serious discussions are occurring. We are still concerned that the amendment to strike out these provisions was voted down in the House Ways & Means Committee.

Imposing a tax on tuition waivers would mean graduate students would be taxed on money they never actually receive. The implementation of taxes on tuition waivers would create a cycle for graduate students where they are forced to take out loans to pay their tax bills. Graduate student loans, when compared to loans taken by undergraduates, carry significantly higher interest rates, which translates into a much longer repayment period. These would also lead to a drop in the number of hours that graduate-professional students devote to their research and towards service to their universities, negatively impacting American leadership in Higher Education, and advances in STEM and medical fields.

NAGPS will continue to organize calls and social media efforts to draw attention to the devastating impact of the policies proposed by the House Tax Cuts and Jobs Act will have on hundreds of thousands of graduate-professional students across the country. We encourage graduate-professional students, faculty members, supporters, partners and allies to actively participate in the #ReworkTheReform campaign until the above-mentioned provisions are dropped from the House Bill. This fight is far from over.

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[NAGPS](http://NAGPS.org) is a national non-profit composed of graduate and professional student governments across the US that represents over 144,000 graduate and professional students at a diverse group of member institutions.