



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF GRADUATE-PROFESSIONAL STUDENTS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Organization: [National Association of Graduate-Professional Students](http://NationalAssociationofGraduate-ProfessionalStudents.org)

Contact: Samantha Hernandez, (361) 215-7609, legislative@nagps.org

Surya D. Aggarwal, (412) 951-9423, advocacy@nagps.org

House Ways & Means Committee Fails Higher Ed Yet Again

On Thursday, November 9, 2017, the House Ways and Means Committee met to discuss amendments on the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act has many provisions that adversely impact the higher education community. These provisions not only negatively affect universities, but also graduate students directly. Most important of these provisions is Sec. 1204 of The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, which repeals various provisions of the Tax Code, including Qualified Tuitions Reductions (Sec. 117(d)), Employer-Provided Education Assistance (Sec. 127), Interest Payments on Qualified Education Loans, and Tuition and Related Expenses, and Interest on United States Savings Bonds. Other provisions that have been negatively altered include the tax credits lines of American Opportunities Tax Credit (AOTC), the Hope Scholarship and the Lifelong Learning Credit, which have all been combined and reduced.

Representative Lloyd Doggett (D- TX35) introduced an amendment to strike out Sec. 1204 from the text of the bill. The amendment also included other provisions, one of which was a proposal to expand AOTC to a lifetime limit of \$15,000. Unfortunately, the amendment was voted down 16-24. NAGPS commends Rep. Doggett for introducing the amendment, which would have been beneficial for higher education, in general, and graduate students, specifically. We also commend the other Representatives on the Ways & Means Committee who voted in favor of the amendment.

The decision to not strike out Sec. 1204 in the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act demonstrates a lack of awareness on its ramifications not just for post-secondary and higher education, but for K-12 as well. As believers in the value of education and the importance of accessibility, NAGPS strongly condemns the decision of Republican members of the House Ways and Means Committee to vote against the amendment.

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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.