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**KENNEDY ON PASSAGE OF BILL TO EASE STUDENT LOAN PROCEDURES
FOR SERVICE MEMBERS**

WASHINGTON, DC—Senator Edward M. Kennedy today commended the Senate’s passage by voice vote last night of legislation permanently extending the provisions of the Higher Education Relief Opportunities for Students Act, originally enacted in 2003. The Act authorizes the Secretary of Education to waive or modify any statutory or regulatory provisions on federal student aid for service members and others during a war or other national emergency.

“The Act recognizes the many problems the service members face when they’re called to active duty in such situations, but their college loans shouldn’t be one of them, said Senator Kennedy. By permanently extending the 2003 law, we’re providing greater assurance to our men and women in uniform that they won’t face unexpected burdens related to these loans while they defend our Nation.”

The Act authorizes the Secretary of Education to ease several statutory and regulatory requirements in federal student aid programs, including rules related to the application process, needs analysis and, default collection procedures. The Act covers the following persons, their spouses and dependents:

- Active duty military personnel serving during a war, military operation or national emergency;
- Members of the National Guard performing such duties;
- People who reside or are employed in an area declared a disaster area by any federal, state or local official in connection with a national emergency;
- People who suffer economic hardship as a result of a war, military operation, or national emergency.

The bill, was passed in the House of Representatives on Tuesday and will now be sent to the President for his signature.

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