

information. This will be followed with a briefing on Marketing Strategies. Then the Committee will have two panel discussions on the following topics: Healthy Unit Climate, and Women's Mental Health. The second day of the meeting will open with a panel discussion on Personal Protective Equipment/Gear for Women. This will be followed by an update briefing on Marine Corps Recruit Training. Day two will end with a public comment period.

Agenda: Tuesday, March 20, 2018, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.—Welcome, Introductions, and Announcements; Request for Information Status Update; Briefing: Marketing Strategies; Panel Discussion: Healthy Unit Climate; Panel Discussion: Women's Mental Health; Public Dismissed. Wednesday, March 21, 2018, from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.—Welcome and Announcements; Panel Discussion: Personal Protective Equipment/Gear for Women; Briefing: Marine Corps Recruit Training Update; Public Comment Period; Public Dismissed.

Meeting Accessibility: Pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552b, as amended, and 41 CFR 102–3.140 through 102–3.165, this meeting is open to the public, subject to the availability of space.

Written Statements: Pursuant to 41 CFR 102–3.140, and section 10(a)(3) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act of 1972, interested persons may submit a written statement for consideration by the DACOWITS. Individuals submitting a written statement must submit their statement to the point of contact listed at the address in **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** no later than 5:00 p.m., Monday, March 12, 2018. If a written statement is not received by Monday, March 12, 2018, prior to the meeting, which is the subject of this notice, then it may not be provided to or considered by the DACOWITS until its next open meeting. The DFO will review all timely submissions with the DACOWITS Chair and ensure they are provided to the members of the Committee. If members of the public are interested in making an oral statement, a written statement should be submitted. After reviewing the written comments, the Chair and the DFO will determine who of the requesting persons will be able to make an oral presentation of their issue during an open portion of this meeting or at a future meeting. Pursuant to 41 CFR 102–3.140(d), determination of who will be making an oral presentation is at the sole discretion of the Committee Chair and the DFO, and will depend on time available and if the topics are relevant to the Committee's activities. Five minutes will be allotted to persons

desiring to make an oral presentation. Oral presentations by members of the public will be permitted only on Wednesday, March 21, 2018 from 11:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. in front of the full Committee. The number of oral presentations to be made will depend on the number of requests received from members of the public.

Dated: February 15, 2018.

Aaron Siegel,

Alternate OSD Federal Register Liaison Officer, Department of Defense.

[FR Doc. 2018–03485 Filed 2–20–18; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 5001–06–P

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Navy

Notice of Availability of Government-Owned Inventions; Available for Licensing

AGENCY: Department of the Navy, DoD.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of the Navy (DoN) announces the availability of the inventions listed below, assigned to the United States Government, as represented by the Secretary of the Navy, for domestic and foreign licensing by the Department of the Navy.

ADDRESSES: Requests for copies of the patents cited should be directed to Naval Surface Warfare Center, Crane Div, Code OOL, Bldg 2, 300 Highway 361, Crane, IN 47522–5001.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Christopher Monsey, Naval Surface Warfare Center, Crane Div, Code OOL, Bldg 2, 300 Highway 361, Crane, IN 47522–5001, Email Christopher.Monsey@navy.mil.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The following patents are available for licensing: Patent No. 8,857,157 (Navy Case No. 200273): STAND-OFF CHARGE SYSTEM INCLUDING AN ATTACHMENT BRACKET AND RELATED METHODS//Patent No. 9,860,694 (Navy Case No. 200352): COMPUTING PLATFORM METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR TRANSMITTING DATA COMMUNICATION VIA RADIO ACCESS POINT//Patent No. 9,874,625 (Navy Case No. 102054): ELECTROMAGNETIC RADIATION SOURCE LOCATING SYSTEM//Patent No. 9,874,858 (Navy Case No. 103103): AUTOMATION CONTROL SYSTEM AND A METHOD IN AN AUTOMATION CONTROL SYSTEM//Patent No. 9,876,969 (Navy Case No. 200347): ELECTROMAGNETIC (EM) POWER DENSITY AND FIELD

CHARACTERIZATION TECHNIQUE// and Patent No. 9,877,208 (Navy Case No. 200240): SYSTEM AND METHODS FOR UNOBTRUSIVELY AND RELOCATEABLY EXTENDING COMMUNICATION COVERAGE AND SUPPORTING UNMANNED AERIAL VEHICLE (UAV) ACTIVITIES.

Authority: 35 U.S.C. 207, 37 CFR part 404.

Dated: February 13, 2018.

E.K. Baldini,

Lieutenant Commander, Judge Advocate General's Corps, U.S. Navy, Federal Register Liaison Officer.

[FR Doc. 2018–03442 Filed 2–20–18; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3810–FF–P

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

[Docket ID ED–2017–OPE–0085]

Request for Information on Evaluating Undue Hardship Claims in Adversary Actions Seeking Student Loan Discharge in Bankruptcy Proceedings

AGENCY: Office of Postsecondary Education, U.S. Department of Education.

ACTION: Request for information.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Department of Education (Department) seeks to ensure that the congressional mandate to except student loans from bankruptcy discharge except in cases of undue hardship is appropriately implemented while also ensuring that borrowers for whom repayment of their student loans would be an undue hardship are not inadvertently discouraged from filing an adversary proceeding in their bankruptcy case. Accordingly, the Department is requesting public comment on factors to be considered in evaluating undue hardship claims asserted by student loan borrowers in adversary proceedings filed in bankruptcy cases, the weight to be given to such factors, whether the existence of two tests for evaluation of undue hardship claims results in inequities among borrowers seeking undue hardship discharge, and how all of these, and potentially additional, considerations should weigh into whether an undue hardship claim should be conceded by the loan holder.

DATES: Responses must be received by May 22, 2018.

ADDRESSES: Submit your comments through the Federal eRulemaking Portal or via U.S. mail, commercial delivery, or hand delivery. We will not accept comments by fax or by email or those submitted after the comment period. To ensure that we do not receive duplicate

copies, please submit your comments only once. In addition, please include the Docket ID and the term “Evaluating Undue Hardship Claims in Bankruptcy” at the top of your comments.

• **Federal eRulemaking Portal:** Go to www.regulations.gov to submit your comments electronically. Information on using *Regulations.gov*, including instructions for accessing agency documents, submitting comments, and viewing the docket, is available on the site under the “Help” tab.

U.S. Mail, Commercial Delivery, or Hand Delivery: If you mail or deliver your comments, address them to Jean-Didier Gaina, U.S. Department of Education, Office of Postsecondary Education, 400 Maryland Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20202–6110. Though this Request for Information (RFI) is not regulatory in nature, the Department has elected to use the Federal eRulemaking Portal for submissions to ensure the process is transparent to all interested parties.

Privacy Note: The Department’s policy for comments received from members of the public (including comments submitted by mail, commercial delivery, or hand delivery) is to make these submissions available for public viewing in their entirety on the Federal eRulemaking Portal at www.regulations.gov. Therefore, commenters should be careful to include in their comments only information that they wish to make publicly available on the internet.

Note: This RFI is issued solely for information and planning purposes and is not a request for proposal (RFP), a notice inviting applications (NIA), or a promise to issue an RFP or NIA. This RFI does not commit the Department to provide a response to any of the comments or take any action proposed in any comment. The Department will not pay for any information or administrative costs that you may incur in responding to this RFI. The documents and information submitted in response to this RFI become the property of the U.S. Government and will not be returned.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Jean-Didier Gaina, U.S. Department of Education, Office of Postsecondary Education, 400 Maryland Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20202–6110. Telephone: 202–453–7551.

If you use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) or a text telephone (TTY), call the Federal Relay Service (FRS), toll free, at 1–800–877–8339.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

A. Statutory Authority

The U.S. Bankruptcy Code, 11 U.S.C. 523(a)(8), currently provides that student loans can be discharged in

bankruptcy only if excepting the debt from discharge would impose an “undue hardship” on the borrower and the borrower’s dependents:

Section 523 Exceptions to Discharge

(a) A discharge under . . . this title does not discharge an individual debtor from any debt—

(8) unless excepting such debt from discharge under this paragraph would impose an undue hardship on the debtor and the debtor’s dependents, for—

(A)(i) an educational benefit overpayment or loan made, insured, or guaranteed by a governmental unit, or made under any program funded in whole or in part by a governmental unit or nonprofit institution; or

(ii) an obligation to repay funds received as an educational benefit, scholarship, or stipend; or

(B) any other educational loan that is a qualified education loan, as defined in section 221(d)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, incurred by a debtor who is an individual.

11 U.S.C. 523(a)(8).

Congress has amended the student loan bankruptcy discharge provision several times, tightening the restrictions on discharge with each amendment.

B. “Undue Hardship” Case Law

Congress has never defined the term “undue hardship” in the Bankruptcy Code and has not delegated to the Department the authority to do so. Federal courts have established the legal standard for a student loan debtor to prove “undue hardship” as authorized by Congress. In general, the courts have used one of two tests to analyze whether undue hardship is proven: The *Brunner* test (named after the case in which that test was first articulated, *Brunner v. New York State Higher Educ. Serv. Corp.*, 831 F.2d 395 (2d Cir. 1987)) or the Totality of the Circumstances test (*Long v. Educ. Credit Mgmt. Corp.*, 322 F.3d 549 (8th Cir. 2003)).

Under the *Brunner* test, the debtor must show that: (1) He or she cannot maintain, based on current income and expenses, a minimal standard of living for himself or herself and any dependents if forced to repay the loans; (2) additional circumstances exist indicating that this state of affairs is likely to persist for a significant portion of the repayment period of the student loans; and (3) he or she has made good faith efforts to repay the loans. Under the Totality of the Circumstances test, the court examines: (1) The debtor’s past, present, and likely future financial resources; (2) his or her reasonably necessary living expenses; and (3) any other relevant facts and circumstances. Regardless of which test is used, the burden of proof is on the debtor to meet the standard and prove undue hardship.

C. Regulatory Requirements: Direct 34 CFR 685.212(c), FFELP 34 CFR 682.402(i)(1) & Perkins 34 CFR 674.49(c)

Department regulations currently require holders to evaluate each undue hardship claim to determine whether requiring repayment would constitute an undue hardship. If a holder determines that requiring repayment would impose an undue hardship, the holder must concede an undue hardship claim by the borrower in an adversary proceeding. The Department’s current guidance to guarantors and educational institutions in defending bankruptcy proceedings is summarized in a July 7, 2015, Dear Colleague Letter (GEN–15–13 <https://ifap.ed.gov/dpccletters/GEN1513.html>) and provides for a two-step analysis when evaluating whether or not to object to a borrower’s claim of undue hardship. The Department follows the same two-step analysis when defending bankruptcy proceedings for Direct loans. After receiving input from this notice, we will consider whether that analysis is still appropriate.

Context for Responses and Information Requested: The undue hardship standard established under either test requires a variety of factors to be evaluated when determining whether repaying a debt will cause a debtor and his or her dependents an undue hardship, such as, but not limited to, the debtor’s: Medical, work, or family history; history of mental illness; level of educational attainment; future employment prospects; payment history, including a borrower’s willingness to avail himself or herself of all available repayment plans, including income-driven repayment plans; and necessary expenses in excess of ordinary unique to the debtor.

The Assistant Secretary for Postsecondary Education invites the public, including individuals, advocacy groups, and professional organizations, as well as other State or Federal agencies or components, to provide comment on, and offer information regarding: (1) Factors to be considered in evaluating undue hardship claims; (2) weight to be given to any such factors; (3) whether the use of two tests results in inequities among borrowers; (4) circumstances under which loan holders should concede an undue hardship claim by the borrower; and (5) whether and how the 2015 Dear Colleague Letter should be amended. The Department will review the data collected to determine whether there is any need to modify how undue hardship claims by student loan borrowers in bankruptcy are evaluated.

You may provide comments in any convenient format (*i.e.*, bullet points, charts, graphs, paragraphs, etc.) and may also provide relevant information that is not responsive to a particular question but may nevertheless be helpful.

Accessible Format: Individuals with disabilities can obtain this document in an accessible format (*e.g.*, braille, large print, audiotape, or compact disc) upon request to the person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

Electronic Access to This Document: The official version of this document is the document published in the **Federal Register**. Free internet access to the official edition of the **Federal Register** and the Code of Federal Regulations is available via the Federal Digital System at: www.gpo.gov/fdsys. At this site you can view this document, as well as all other documents of this Department published in the **Federal Register**, in text or Portable Document Format (PDF). To use PDF you must have Adobe Acrobat Reader, which is available free at the site.

You may also access documents of the Department published in the **Federal Register** by using the article search feature at: www.federalregister.gov. Specifically, through the advanced search feature at this site, you can limit your search to documents published by the Department.

Program Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1082(a).

Dated: February 15, 2018.

Frank T. Brogan,

Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary and Delegated the duties of the Assistant Secretary, Office of Planning, Evaluation and Policy Development, Delegated the duties of the Assistant Secretary, Office of Postsecondary Education.

[FR Doc. 2018-03537 Filed 2-20-18; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4000-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

[Docket No.: ED-2017-ICCD-0133]

Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission to the Office of Management and Budget for Review and Approval; Comment Request; Consolidated State Performance Report Part I and Part II

AGENCY: Office of Elementary and Secondary Education (OESE), Department of Education (ED).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, ED is proposing a revision of an existing information collection.

DATES: Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before March 23, 2018.

ADDRESSES: To access and review all the documents related to the information collection listed in this notice, please use <http://www.regulations.gov> by searching the Docket ID number ED-2017-ICCD-0133. Comments submitted in response to this notice should be submitted electronically through the Federal eRulemaking Portal at <http://www.regulations.gov> by selecting the Docket ID number or via postal mail, commercial delivery, or hand delivery. *Please note that comments submitted by fax or email and those submitted after the comment period will not be accepted.* Written requests for information or comments submitted by postal mail or delivery should be addressed to the Director of the Information Collection Clearance Division, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue SW, LBJ, Room 216-42, Washington, DC 20202-4537.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For specific questions related to collection activities, please contact Sarah Newman, 202-453-6956.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Department of Education (ED), in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA) (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)), provides the general public and Federal agencies with an opportunity to comment on proposed, revised, and continuing collections of information. This helps the Department assess the impact of its information collection requirements and minimize the public's reporting burden. It also helps the public understand the Department's information collection requirements and provide the requested data in the desired format. ED is soliciting comments on the proposed information collection request (ICR) that is described below. The Department of Education is especially interested in public comment addressing the following issues: (1) Is this collection necessary to the proper functions of the Department; (2) will this information be processed and used in a timely manner; (3) is the estimate of burden accurate; (4) how might the Department enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (5) how might the Department minimize the burden of this collection on the respondents, including through the use of information technology. Please note that written comments received in response to this notice will be considered public records.

Title of Collection: Consolidated State Performance Report Part I and Part II.

OMB Control Number: 1810-0724.

Type of Review: A revision of an existing information collection.

Respondents/Affected Public: State, Local, and Tribal Governments.

Total Estimated Number of Annual Responses: 14,653.

Total Estimated Number of Annual Burden Hours: 16,447.

Abstract: The Consolidated State Performance Report (CSPR) is the required annual reporting tool for each State, the Bureau of Indian Education, District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico as authorized under Section 8303 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). The CSPR collects data on programs authorized by:

- Title I, Part A;
 - Title I, Part C;
 - Title I, Part D;
 - Title II, Part A;
 - Title III, Part A;
 - Title V, Part A;
 - Title V, Part B, Subparts 1 and 2;
- and
- The McKinney-Vento Act.

The information in this collection relate to the performance and monitoring activities of the aforementioned programs under ESSA and the McKinney-Vento Act. These data are needed for reporting on GPRA as well as other reporting requirements under ESSA. There are significant changes between this collection and the SY2016-17 collection. The SY2016-17 collection represented the reporting requirements under the No Child Left Behind Act while the SY2017-18 aligns with the reporting requirements of the Every Student Succeeds Act.

Dated: February 15, 2018.

Tomakie Washington,

Acting Director, Information Collection Clearance Division, Office of the Chief Privacy Officer, Office of Management.

[FR Doc. 2018-03521 Filed 2-20-18; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4000-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

[Docket No.: ED-2018-ICCD-0018]

Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission to the Office of Management and Budget for Review and Approval; Comment Request; 2008/18 Baccalaureate and Beyond (B&B: 08/18) Full-Scale

AGENCY: National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), Department of Education (ED).

ACTION: Notice.