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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Docket No.: ED-2016-ICCD-0075

Agency Information Collection Activities; Comment Request; Application for Borrower Defense to Loan Repayment Form

AGENCY: Department of Education (ED), Federal Student Aid (FSA)

ACTION: Notice

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. chapter 3501 *et seq.*), ED is proposing a new information collection.

DATES: Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before [insert the 60th day after publication of this notice].

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-2016-ICCD-0075. 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 e-mail 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 2E-347, Washington, D.C. 20202-4537.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For specific questions related to collection activities, please contact Beth Grebeldinger, 202-377-4018.

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: Application for Borrower Defense to Loan Repayment Form

OMB Control Number: 1845-NEW

Type of Review: A new information collection

Respondents / Affected Public: Individuals or Households

Total Estimated Number of Annual Responses: 10,000

Total Estimated Number of Annual Burden Hours: 10,000

Abstract: The Department of Education (the Department) requests approval of this new collection of an Application for Borrower Defense to Loan Repayment form (“Universal Borrower Defense Form”) to ensure that all borrowers have a consistent platform to petition for relief, and to facilitate the Department’s receipt of clear and complete information necessary to process applications efficiently. This form will facilitate processing claims from student borrowers who believe that they have a Borrower Defense claim regarding their Federal Loans. The form will provide borrowers with an easily accessible and clear method to provide the information necessary for the Department to review and process claim applications efficiently. The Universal Borrower Defense Form will set forth examples of the types of activities that could form the basis of borrowers’ claims for Borrower Defense relief. A successful Borrower Defense claim would provide a full or partial discharge of a borrower’s loans, as well as reimbursement of amounts previously paid (if appropriate).

Dated: June 22, 2016

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

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