



THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS  
WASHINGTON

March 22, 2023

**MEMORANDUM FOR UNDER SECRETARIES, ASSISTANT SECRETARIES  
AND OTHER KEY OFFICIALS**

**SUBJECT:** Delegation of Authority for the Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act (P.L. 117-168) related to student loan repayments (VIEWS 8805696).

**1. DELEGATION.** This memorandum delegates to the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Under Secretaries, Assistant Secretaries and Other Key Officials with equivalent levels of authority, the authorization to approve student loan repayments pursuant to 38 U.S.C. § 706(e), which allows for repayment under 5 U.S.C. § 5379(b).

**2. AUTHORITIES.**

- a. 38 U.S.C. § 706(e) – Student loan repayments, as established by Section 909 of the PACT Act.
- b. 38 U.S.C. § 303 – Secretary of Veterans Affairs.
- c. 38 U.S.C. § 512 – Delegation of Authority; assignment of functions and duties.
- d. 5 U.S.C. § 5379 – Student Loan Repayments.
- e. 5 C.F.R. Part 537 – Repayment of Student Loans.
- f. VA Directive 0000 – Delegations of Authority.
- g. VA Handbook 5007 – Pay Administration.

**3. RESTRICTIONS.** This delegation of authority is concurrent with the Secretary's authority and does not preclude the Secretary from exercising, modifying or otherwise delegating such authority. Delegations must be authorized consistent with guidance issued by VA.

- a. The authority delegated is intended solely to support the Department's ability to recruit and retain VA personnel in accordance with P.L. 117-168.
- b. Except as described herein, the requirements of coverage, exclusions and administration of the *Student Loan Repayment Program* set forth in 5 U.S.C. § 5379(b) and VA Handbook 5007, Pay Administration, Part VI, Pay Flexibilities for Recruitment and Retention remain the same.

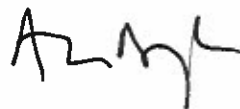
**4. REDELEGATION.** The authority to approve repayment of student loans in accordance with 38 U.S.C. § 706(e)(1)–(3) may be redelegated in writing as outlined below. No further redelegations are authorized unless otherwise noted.

- a. An official at a higher level than the one recommending the student loan repayment must approve the repayment.
- b. The Secretary, or designee, is the approving official for student loan repayments for employees in or selected for positions centralized to the Office of the Secretary.

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- c. Under Secretaries, Assistant Secretaries, Deputy Assistant Secretaries and Other Key Officials of equivalent level of authority within the scope of their supervisory control (including Deputy General Counsel for the Office of General Counsel) are the approving officials for student loan repayment for employees occupying centralized positions.
- d. Veterans Health Administration (VHA): Medical Center Directors, Network Directors, VHA Central Office Senior Executive Service (SES)/SES Equivalent Executive Directors and VHA Chief Officers or Assistant Under Secretaries for Health (for offices without a Chief Officer) may approve student loan repayment for employees in or selected for noncentralized positions under their jurisdiction.
- e. Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA): District Directors, Regional Office Directors and VBA Central Office Business Line Directors may approve student loan repayment for employees in or selected for noncentralized positions under their jurisdiction.
- f. National Cemetery Administration (NCA): Facility Directors, District Directors and NCA Central Office Senior Executives may approve student loan repayment for employees in or selected for noncentralized positions under their jurisdiction.

**5. EFFECTIVE DATE AND EXPIRATION DATE.** This delegation of authority is effective upon signature, and pursuant to VA Directive 0000, I have waived the 2-year expiration date. Therefore, this delegation of authority will be in effect to coincide with the termination date of the provision, 38 U.S.C. § 706(k), on September 30, 2027.



Denis McDonough