President Trump’s budget eliminates a program to help students seeking a career in public service and rural communities across the country are in desperate need of teachers, doctors, and other public servants.

The Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program was launched in 2007 to motivate university graduates to take government and teaching jobs in remote rural areas. The program was designed to attract teachers, doctors, and other public sector workers to low-income, rural areas in exchange for less student debt.

Trump’s Budget Cut Would Impact Aspiring Teachers, Public Defenders, Social Workers, And Primary Care Doctors, Many Of Whom Worked In Low-Income Areas For Below-Average Pay, Despite Their Loans. According to CNN Money, “They chose careers as teachers, public defenders, social workers, and primary care doctors. Many work in low-income areas for below-average pay, despite their loans. Some have moved to different states and turned down higher-paying, private sector jobs to stay in the program. Now they’re hoping it wasn’t all for nothing. President Trump’s proposed budget, released Tuesday, calls for eliminating the already-troubled program for new borrowers. The cut, which requires an act of Congress, would save $27.5 billion over 10 years if enacted.” [CNN Money, 5/23/17]

added, would make it more difficult for nonprofit organizations to recruit qualified staff members.” [Chronicle Of Higher Education, 5/23/17]

Under The Program, Students Who Went On To Work In The Public Sector Could Have Their Debt forgiven After Making 120 Qualifying Monthly Payments Or 10 Years’ Worth Of Payments. According to The Washington Post, “Another change in the spending plan calls for the elimination of Public Service Loan Forgiveness, a program that wipes away federal student debt for people in the public sector after they have made 120 qualifying monthly payments, or 10 years’ worth of payments. The program, enacted in 2007 under President George W. Bush, was designed to encourage college graduates to pursue careers as social workers, teachers, public defenders or doctors in rural areas.” [Washington Post, 5/17/17]

**RURAL AREAS ALREADY SUFFER A SHORTAGE OF DOCTORS AND TEACHERS**

One-Fifth Of Americans Live In Rural Areas, But About One-Tenth Of Physicians Are In Rural Areas. According to The Atlantic, “There are about 6,000 federally designated areas with a shortage of primary care doctors in the U.S., and 4,000 with a shortage of dentists. Rural areas have about 68 primary care doctors per 100,000 people, compared with 84 in urban centers. Put another way, about a fifth of Americans live in rural areas, but barely a tenth of physicians practice there.” [The Atlantic, 8/28/14]

National School Boards Association: “More Than 40 Percent Of All Small, Rural School Districts In The Country Have Serious Difficulties Filling Vacant Teaching Positions.” According to the National School Boards Association, “More than 9 million students are enrolled in rural public elementary and secondary schools, according to the U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics. And more than 40 percent of all small, rural school districts in the country have serious difficulties filling vacant teaching positions. The number of unfilled teaching positions in schools serving Indian Country, some of the smallest and most isolated areas, has doubled over the last 10 years.” [National School Boards Association, accessed 2/28/17]