


To: Sharon Mar
Senior Advisor to the Deputy Administrator
OMB – Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs

Through: Kathy Axt
Management and Program Analyst
Information Collection Clearance Program
Information Management Branch
Office of the Chief Information Officer

From: Jeff Appel 
Director, Policy Liaison and Implementation
Federal Student Aid
U.S. Department of Education

Subject: Request for emergency clearance of the collection (1845-NEW) associated with the implementation of the Cancer Treatment Deferment, as required under the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2019 (Pub. L. No 115-245).

Date: January 24, 2019

On September 28, 2018, the President signed the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2019 into law. Section 309 of the law included a new deferment for Direct Loan, FFEL Program, and Perkins Loan borrowers who are receiving cancer treatment and for the 6-month period following such treatment. The law was immediately effective, meaning that borrowers can immediately request and should receive the deferment.

Because the law provided no time to implement before the deferment became effective, the Department requests that OMB allow the Department to clear the collection associated with the implementation of the Cancer Treatment Deferment using the emergency clearance procedures of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, outlined in 42 U.S.C. 3507(j) by January 24, 2019. Additionally, we are requesting that the full clearance package be filed at the same time and that the 60 day public comment period be initiated at this time.

Because collections that have been cleared under the emergency procedures are cleared immediately (even if temporarily), the Department would not be required to delay its implementation of the law. If the Department were required to put the collection through the normal clearance process, the Department could not begin implementing the necessary changes until after the collection was cleared. This delay would force the Department to delay the operational changes, which would violate the law.

Please let me know if you have questions related to this emergency clearance request. I may be reached at (202) 377-3936 or by email at jeff.appel@ed.gov, or you may contact Ian Foss of my staff at (202) 377-3681 or by email at ian.foss@ed.gov.