

FACT SHEET

House Committee on Education and the Workforce

Ranking Member Robert C. "Bobby" Scott

Vote "NO" on Extreme MAGA Republican's Plan to Deny Relief for 43 Million Student Loan Borrowers

Republicans want to deny more than 20.6 million of their own constituents student loan relief

A college degree remains the surest <u>pathway to economic mobility</u> and the American Dream. Unfortunately, the cost of attending college today is <u>more than triple</u> what it cost to attend college in 1980. As a result, the rising cost of attendance, coupled with state disinvestment in public higher education, has forced students and their families to borrow more than ever before to attend college.

Last August, President Biden <u>announced</u> the administration's plan to forgive up to \$20,000 in outstanding federal student loan debt for borrowers. Under the President's plan, 90 percent of the relief would go to borrowers earning less than \$75,000 a year. The administration also extended the pause on student loan payments and accrual of interest on student loans from September to December 2022.

<u>Three in five Americans support</u> President Biden's debt relief plan, and a <u>majority of voters</u> support the pause in student loan payments.

The Problem

Extreme MAGA Republicans, led by Rep. Bob Good, want to use the **Congressional Review Act** to:

- Deny student debt relief for <u>43 million student loan borrowers debt relief</u>, including <u>more than 20.6 million</u> of their own constituents.
- Collect interest that accrued on student loans from September to December 2022. That is about \$233 (in interest and principal combined) per month for every month they did not make a payment.
- Force public servants, like firefighters and teachers, who participate in the Public Service Loan Forgiveness
 Program to make additional payments towards their loan. Borrowers were previously promised they would
 still receive credits towards the PSLF program during the pause, and H.J. Res. 45 could force them to make
 additional payments.

Meanwhile, the same MAGA Republicans who oppose relief for student loan borrowers, have had millions of dollars' of their <u>own loans forgiven</u> through the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP).

The Solution

While the President's plan would provide urgent relief for millions of Americans who currently hold student loans, Congress's work to support students cannot end until we address the root causes of the student debt crisis, including the declining value of the Pell Grant and our flawed student loan system.

The <u>Lowering Obstacles to Achievement Now (LOAN) Act</u>—introduced by Ranking Members Scott and Wilson—would help address the gaps in our flawed student loan system to support current and future borrowers and reduce the need for students to borrow in the first place. The *LOAN Act* doubles the Pell Grant, improves the Public Service Loan Forgiveness program, caps interest rates on new loans at five percent, and makes other critical reforms to make our student loan system work for students.