

The House Republicans' "Big Ugly Bill" **Makes College Less Affordable** — All to Pay for Tax Breaks for Billionaires and Corporations

The Republicans' "Big Ugly Bill" will make college less affordable for students, raise student loan payments for current borrowers, and expose students to predatory, for-profit institutions— all to pay for tax breaks for billionaires and corporations.

Republicans' "Big Ugly Bill" **raises costs for students** by:

- **Forcing student loan borrowers into unaffordable repayment plans.** For the more than 42 million Americans who hold federal student loan debt, this proposal would replace existing income-driven repayment plans with a single plan that would increase payments for most borrowers and remove existing safeguards that protect borrowers from carrying debt for more than 25 years. For the average borrower, the Republican proposal would **increase monthly student loan payments by almost \$200**.
- **Eliminating resources to help struggling borrowers.** This bill eliminates economic hardship forbearances and limits the length of time loans can be in deferment, regardless of any administrative challenges borrowers may face with their loan servicer. This would make it harder for borrowers who may be struggling with life costs, such as child care, medical bills, or job loss, to meet their basic needs since they would be forced to continue loan payments they cannot afford.
- **Pushes students into the predatory, private loan market by eliminating Graduate PLUS loans, capping Parent PLUS loans, and limiting Pell Grant access.** This also bill prohibits students with full scholarships from receiving Pell Grants if their college believes, despite whether the student's cost of attendance changes, the student's basic needs are met. Additionally, it requires undergraduate students to exhaust their unsubsidized loans before parents can utilize Parent PLUS to cover the remaining cost of attendance and sets a limit for Parent PLUS loans of \$65,000 per child. With these student aid caps, students would be pushed to take out predatory, unregulated private loans to finance their degree – or walk away from their education.

Republicans' "Big Ugly Bill" **exposes students to predatory, for-profit institutions** by stopping the implementation of:

- The **2023 Borrower Defense Regulation**, which provides student loan relief for millions of borrowers defrauded by their schools.
- The **2023 Closed School Discharge Regulation**, which provides student loan relief for students whose institutions closed before they completed their programs.

Republicans' "Big Ugly Bill" **hurts rural and low-income communities** by:

- **Making it harder for institutions of higher education to enroll students in public service programs** such as medicine, dentistry, and social work. The bill penalizes colleges if their students do not meet certain earnings requirements, which could make it harder for colleges to support students seeking low- and moderate-wage public service careers to serve their local communities. This, coupled with eliminating Grad PLUS loans, could be particularly devastating to rural and low-income communities, which face higher levels of healthcare shortages, and the veteran community which relies on graduates from these types of programs to support veterans' services.

To learn more about how the Republicans' "Big Ugly Bill" will make college less affordable and expose students and taxpayers to risk, [click here](#). For stakeholder opposition letters, [click here](#).