

CRA Efforts to Overturn Student Loan Payment Pause and President Biden's Debt Relief Program Will Cause Economic Havoc for Millions of Borrowers

In [March](#), Senator Bill Cassidy (R-LA) and Representative Bob Good (R-VA) unveiled bicameral Congressional Review Act (CRA) resolutions (S.J.Res.22/H.J.Res.45) to unwind the pause on federal student loan payments—forcing borrowers to repay tens of billions of dollars in payments and interest and even reinstating the loans forgiven for public service workers—and block President Biden's plan to cancel student debt for up to 43 million Americans. These resolutions are not subject to Senate filibuster rules and require a simple majority to pass both chambers of Congress. The House is expected to vote on this resolution imminently, and the Senate is expected to follow suit in the coming months.

Overturning the payment pause and immediately forcing borrowers into abrupt repayment will increase balances and cause economic havoc for tens of millions of federal student loan borrowers and their families.

- ❖ The CRA resolutions introduced would overturn the **seventh** payment pause which expired in December 2022. Not only would borrowers be forced back into repayment, but also they could see thousands of dollars in payments and accumulated interest added back onto their loan balances.
- ❖ Since the beginning of the payment pause, which began under the Trump Administration and has had bipartisan support up until recently, **37 million borrowers** have been able to use the monthly savings to help keep food on the table and roofs over their heads amidst a deadly pandemic. The payment pause [has allowed borrowers](#)—and particularly the most financially vulnerable borrowers—to reduce delinquencies, pay down other debts, and improve their credit.
- ❖ CRA efforts to overturn the payment pause—a critical economic lifeline for tens of millions of borrowers—are a direct attack on workers and families in the midst of record inflation, economic uncertainty, and the expiration of [other critical benefit expansions](#) tied to the pandemic.
- ❖ For nurses, educators, servicemembers and hundreds of thousands of other public service workers across the country who have earned qualifying payments over the last several months, these CRA efforts would require the Department of Education to revoke those qualifying payments and unwind loan forgiveness under the Public Service Loan Forgiveness program.

Overturning President Biden’s debt relief program will lead to an unprecedented spike in economic hardship—particularly for the most vulnerable borrowers—and throw 43 million borrowers back into an unprepared and fundamentally broken student loan system when they can least afford it.

- ❖ According to an analysis by the U.S. Department of Education, [resuming student loan payments without cancellation](#) will lead to an unprecedented spike of delinquency and default for the most financially vulnerable borrowers.
- ❖ President Biden’s debt relief plan was crafted to provide much needed relief to the most economically vulnerable borrowers. More than 90 percent of student debt relief would go to [borrowers earning below \\$75,000](#) per year.

CRA efforts to overturn President Biden’s debt relief plan are a direct attack on millions of workers and families across this nation that stand closer than ever before to a life free from the crushing weight of student loan debt.

- ❖ In the weeks before President Biden’s debt relief was challenged in court, nearly [26 million borrowers](#) applied or were deemed automatically eligible for the chance at debt relief and [16 million had their applications formally approved](#) by the Department of Education. As millions of borrowers remain in limbo as the Supreme Court determines the fate of debt relief, efforts to use the CRA to overturn this life changing relief are a direct affront to millions of workers and families anticipating this economic fresh start.
- ❖ Tens of millions of borrowers across every state and Congressional District have already been approved for debt relief, leaving them one click away from relief once the Supreme Court follows the letter of the law and upholds the program. To see how many constituents have been approved for relief in your state or Congressional District, click [here](#) and [here](#).

CRA efforts to overturn the payment pause and President Biden’s debt relief plan are just the most recent round of shameful and overtly political attacks on student loan borrowers across the nation.

- ❖ Secretary Cardona’s use of the HEROES Act of 2003 to pause student loan repayment falls within a [long line](#) of waiver and modification authority exercised by prior administrations, including the Trump Administration to pause student loan payments and cancel interest, without the invocation of the CRA. Current efforts to use the CRA are simply designed to score political points.
- ❖ Student loan borrowers and their families should not be used as political pawns. Congress should be acting to improve the circumstances of the American people, not attempting to thwart the President’s efforts to ease the financial pressure that so many are feeling.