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[QUOTE SHEET] Borrowers to Partisan Attorneys General: Stop Attacking Student Debt Relief

See press release [here](#).

Alicia B., Maine, Data and Digital Manager

"I am a proud Navy veteran who served our nation honorably for nearly ten years. Like many of my military brothers and sisters, despite serving in the armed forces and being eligible for the GI Bill, student loan debt has still ruined my life and threatened my economic stability.

"Despite being on active duty following September 11th, my servicer placed my loans into default which resulted in catastrophic consequences for me. After I was honorably discharged from the Navy in 2005, I eventually returned to school to finish my Bachelor's degree in Psychology. I had used most of my GI Bill by then and hesitantly accepted a large unsubsidized Stafford loan. In hindsight, I feel lucky I had to drop out of graduate school because my student loan debt could have been much, much worse. I struggled for the next 10 years trying to find gainful employment and provide for my sons.

"In 2021, because of COVID relief funds, the pause on student loan payments, and a great job, I was finally able to save up enough money for a down payment on a house. However, I could not qualify for a VA loan because of my defaulted student loan status and had to go with a higher interest commercial loan.

"Today, I am 50 years old and still suffer with service connected PTSD. I have helped both of my sons pay for their college education because I refuse to let them experience the student debt despair that I have. I still have \$140,000 in student loan debt and will likely never be able to retire.

"I will never understand how Attorneys General like Andrew Bailey and other partisan AGs can use their elected positions of power to actively hurt student loan borrowers like me. Student loan borrowers are Americans. We are servicemembers and veterans. We are taxpayers and we are constituents. It is long past time that these partisan AGs stop their attacks on working families like mine."

Mary Ann R., New York, Librarian

"One day this summer, after a long time on hold with Mohela, my student loan servicer, I learned that the date was approaching: the date when I might see retirement from my full-time job as a possibility. At almost 72, I was ready to envision my so-called Golden Years, when I might travel a bit, or pick up the creative writing that my busy life had made little time for. The Mohela agent said that in November 2024, I would hit the required 120 payments that would allow my student loans to be finally forgiven. The \$192,000 that I owed was largely from interest incurred from when, time and again, I would call my student loan servicer to plead for a more manageable payment, and would be steered to 'just go into forbearance' ... for months at a time. I was not advised that this would cause my loans to balloon!

"So when I learned, not long afterward, that Biden's SAVE plan was put on hold – indefinitely – that soon I would again be asked to make overwhelmingly expensive student loan payments, I felt ... paralyzed, in disbelief. It didn't seem real that the rug was being pulled out from under me once again. Now, I flip from feelings of despair, to clear realizations that it is deeply unfair that corporations and politicians commit financial crimes with impunity, that we can pour money into instruments of war while no mercy is shown to a large cohort of older student loan debtors, most of whom are women and many, people of color. In this respect, this imbalance also feels sexist and racist.

"I love the work I do, and it's only the baccalaureate and graduate degrees I pursued since mid-life that have allowed me to find meaningful work as a librarian who coordinates public library service that helps amplify the voices of new Americans. In 1998, I had graduated with a 4.0, earning a BA six months after my daughter

graduated from her 4-year college. She was in tears when she saw me in my cap and gown, telling me that I had sacrificed to raise her. While being her mother had been the main joy of my life, it was true that I had put going back to school on hold. In that moment of celebration, I wasn't thinking about the fact that the student loans that would allow me continue my higher education would come with such punishing consequences, and that I would conceivably need to work until my final breath before I was freed from this virtual debtors' prison."

Angela, Missouri

"My concerns are that I cannot afford the \$1300+ monthly payments and need to be on an IBR or SAVE plan. I was on an IBR through Navient and had to switch providers to apply for a consolidation loan and then ended up with Mohela. I do not trust them. At first they delayed processing my application and then the judge struck down SAVE and apparently IBR because they told me they were all on pause."

Carly K., Minnesota, Teacher

"The attacks on student debt relief have caused me and my family a lot of stress, doubt, and uncertainty. When my payments first started, they were high, but since we only had one child and less medical debt, we could *just* afford them. Now, I have two children, a husband on medical leave, I have additional chronic illnesses, a rising cost of living, and AGs threatening to get rid of the SAVE plan that would effectively triple my monthly payments. I do not know how we will be able to pay for preschool, medical bills, my daughter's sports, and our house if SAVE is canceled. I became a teacher partly because I thought my government would support me in giving me an affordable plan for my student loans, since I knew teacher salaries are traditionally not high. If SAVE is cancelled, perhaps I will have to find a different job."

Bill, Illinois

"It was great while in COVID forbearance as I was able to save money to bring down credit card debt, build a savings and enough for a down payment for a house with my fiancé. When payments were restarting I was initially worried about how I'd manage my amount and new expenses with owning a house, which is where the SAVE plan was a saving grace to be able to keep paying towards my loans and work towards PSLF. The year or so on SAVE was very helpful financially. A year later with SAVE being put into forbearance I'm worried what will happen with my PSLF since things I've heard and read from Dept of Ed. and MOHELA is that I can keep making payments and it may count, even though I'm in forbearance, or I can try and apply for another IBR plan, but that could take months due to amount of calls re: loan repayment issues. So I feel stuck and also worried that 9 years of working at my job and making payments are going to be pointless and I will have to start all over again."

Noel, Pennsylvania

"The restart of student loans in 2023 with the SAVE plan initially had some glitches. The EdFinancial website is bad, and the representatives provide different information depending on who you talk to. The White House press release site has been helpful for information, but you have to seek out the information. Once the SAVE plan got rolling, my payments (consolidated undergraduate & graduate loans) were lowered. It was wonderful! But the right-wingers with their court cases have made the already confusing (and deliberately misleading) student loan repayment process absolutely untenable. I am absolutely disgusted with these people who are more worried about predatory loan services losing money vs investing in hard-working Americans. I absolutely rely on the SAVE plan & I, and millions of others, are very worried if this plan is gutted or terminated."

Henry L., California, Engineer

"As the son of immigrants and a Latino, first-generation college graduate from a low-income household, the attacks on student debt relief are disheartening and discouraging. Despite having a job, I still face stress from loan repayments, limiting my financial freedom. Thinking about my family, the attacks could make it difficult for my younger brother and nephew to access education in the future. Student debt cancellation would provide financial stability, relieve the burden of debt, and level the playing field, giving me the same opportunities as those with more resources. To me, student debt cancellation means accessing the basic right of education and removing a significant barrier to improving our lives."

Kyle O., Kentucky, Teacher

“Absolutely the right wing has attacked students over student debt. I cannot afford make qualifying payments to even get a PSLF because of it. I work full time as a teacher with a rank I and my wife is a night shift RN in the ICU at a local hospital. We still cannot afford to keep ourselves in a place where my wife and I can pay bills where I can qualify for a Public Service Loan Forgiveness. We can only make minimum payments on student loans to just survive in the greedflation economy we have. I am part of three grants and work beyond hours only to receive \$500 stipends for hours and days of work just for extras for birthdays and holidays. We cannot survive in this condition trying to just raise our daughter on paycheck to paycheck.”

Melissa, Iowa

“I am fortunate to have a decent income where I can afford my loan payments on an IDR plan. If I were forced to move to a more standardized plan however, I would not be able to afford my payments because they would jump to around \$1200 a month. During the pandemic, when payments and interest accrual was paused, I was able to pay off a few of my smaller-balance loans. Since then, I am less focused on paying off the balances and more focused on making my minimum payments as scheduled so that I have enough money leftover to put toward my savings, retirement, and other future goals. I have also consolidated all my loans into one loan so that they are all on the same payment count timeline. I don't want my student loans to rule my life and want to be able to look forward to traveling, buying a house, or retiring some day, and the IDR payment plans really help me with this goal. I am about halfway through my required 300 payments before forgiveness, and I plan to stick it out and wait for that, rather than throw my extra money at the loans now to try and pay them off. I feel like I have a pretty good grasp of what I need to do to meet my financial and life goals while still paying for my loans, but the litigation surrounding the SAVE plan (and loan forgiveness in general) has me concerned. Additionally, my loan servicer MOHELA, seems to do the bare minimum in terms of communicating with us and is not very helpful when one needs assistance. I wish they could be removed as a servicer since 1) I feel that they are doing a poor job and 2) they seem to provide many of these loan forgiveness and SAVE plan lawsuits. I also know that there are many people who don't have it as lucky as me, who are struggling to pay or even to understand what they need to do or what is best for them. I know it's an extremely difficult task to take on, but the Department of Education needs to do better and our servicers need to do better, and it's incredibly frustrating that we're in such a moment of confusion, uncertainty, and upheaval. I expect better.”

Symantha, Louisiana

“Having student loans hanging over my head is extremely stressful. It has prevented me from paying off other debt and caused me to increase my debt load. I have the everpresent worry that the SAVE plan will fall through and my payments will increase exponentially with little or no warning since my servicer is not providing specifics (presumably because they don't know either, and they are awful at communication in general). Those opposed to student debt relief have no idea how much this impacts both mental and physical health. This is from someone who has used their degrees and is currently working full-time in their chosen field, though in a disadvantaged area with a salary that reflects this.”

Calandra, Oklahoma

“Student loan repayment has created a massive impact on my family and spending for groceries. I'm living off credit cards and have them nearly maxed out. I can't do another year. Many programs and changes I'm not really aware of...the media does not report on student loan forgiveness like it does the past of presidential candidates. I nearly missed the consolidation window. My loans were once consolidated too. MOHELA has created a huge problem. They've been untrustworthy and untouchable for many years. I will NOT be able to keep my car if my payments resume. With no car, means no work. I work for the federal government, when is enough, ENOUGH!”

Nichole, North Dakota

“Since enrolling in the SAVE plan, my payments have become manageable. However, I still owe almost as much as I took out over 10 years ago. It will never get paid off at this rate or I will be retired (in 10-12 years) and still be paying on it. This debt has impacted our family from moving to another home, buying newer cars, adding money to our retirements accounts, etc. I no longer work for public service but feel like some of my 8 years should account

for forgiveness. I have no idea if I am supposed to consolidate my loans and have heard if I do consolidate it could hurt my chances of forgiveness in the future. What is the correct information?!"

Jessica, Missouri

"I have had student loans for over 15 years. Making payments as a one income household has only been feasible with the SAVE plan. I have one payment left to make to fulfill PSLF. I would like to make it but cannot because of administrative forbearance. I would like to close this chapter of debt repayment and move forward toward debt freedom and home ownership."

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