

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

November 14, 2017

The Honorable Betsy DeVos
Secretary of Education
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC 20202

Dear Secretary DeVos,

We write to urge you to take immediate action under the Department of Education's Borrower Defense to Repayment authority to fully discharge the federal student loans of students defrauded by predatory colleges and universities.

The Higher Education Act gives you clear authority, using a process known as Borrower Defense to Repayment, to discharge the federal student loan debt of students who were defrauded by their schools. But since taking office, the Trump Administration has slammed the door to relief on thousands of these students from every state in the Union. While the number of student claims for Borrower Defense continues to climb, the Department of Education, under your leadership, has not discharged a *single* federal student loan, leaving the lives of thousands of borrowers in limbo while they wait.

Attached to this letter, you will find a staff report from the offices of Senators Elizabeth Warren and Richard J. Durbin, which examines in greater detail the history of Borrower Defense, including the infamous collapses of Corinthian and ITT Tech, which brought the issue to the fore, as well as the current status of Borrower Defense discharges under the Trump Administration.

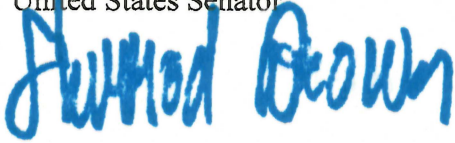
This report also includes profiles of student borrowers from across the country struggling to make ends meet as they wait – sometimes years – for a decision on their Borrower Defense claims. We hope this report will help you better understand the human impact of the fraud committed against these students and the added insult to that injury as they wait for the relief to which they are entitled under law.

We urge you to read this report and the profiles of defrauded student borrowers waiting for a decision from you. We additionally request that you respond to each of the recommendations in this report by December 11, 2017. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Senator Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator



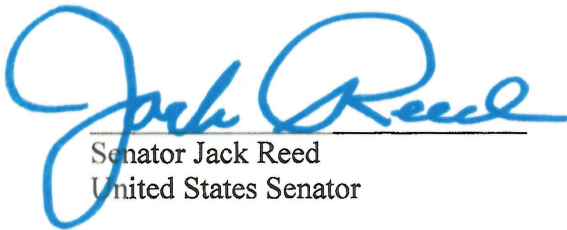
Senator Sherrod Brown
United States Senator



Senator Kamala D. Harris
United States Senator



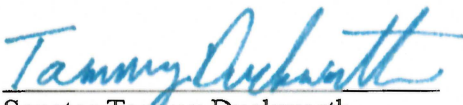
Senator Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator



Senator Jack Reed
United States Senator



Senator Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator



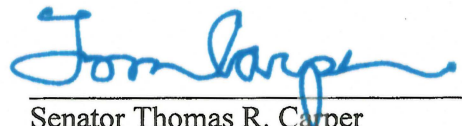
Senator Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator



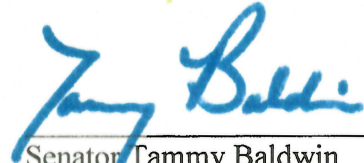
Senator Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



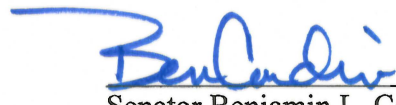
Senator Bernard Sanders
United States Senator




Senator Thomas R. Carper
United States Senator



Senator Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator



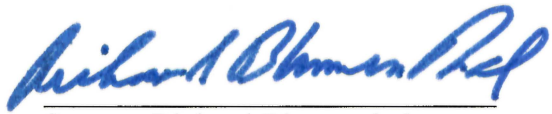
Senator Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator



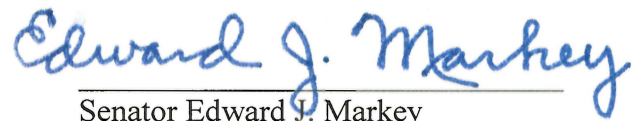
Senator Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator



Senator Al Franken
United States Senator



Senator Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator



Senator Edward J. Markey
United States Senator