

COLLEGE FREEDOM PROJECT

OUR MISSION:

CASE is committed to serving as the voice of American consumers by advocating strongly for free-markets, fiscal responsibility and reasonable consumer protections. Through these time-tested principles, CASE aims to create more prosperity and opportunity for every American.

FIVE 2024 HIGHER EDUCATION POLICY PRIORITIES FOR CONGRESS

The United States has a vibrant higher education system that offers students of all backgrounds an opportunity to earn a degree or skill that will increase their opportunities and earning potential. In theory, our federal government plays an important role in this area, through the Higher Education Act. But in recent years, the Department of Education has put our nation's students' futures at risk through misguided policies and rule makings. This year, Congress should seize the moment and prioritize policies that rein in the Department of Education, promote competition among schools, and advance solutions that make college more affordable.

1. PROTECT TAXPAYERS FROM UNILATERAL AND EXPENSIVE BLANKET STUDENT LOAN BAILOUTS.

The Biden Administration and radicals at the Department of Education believe the President has broad authority to simply wipe away hundreds of billions of dollars in federal student loan debt. Congress should prohibit using the Higher Education Act for debt forgiveness.

2. CONGRESS MUST PASS AND PRESIDENT BIDEN MUST SIGN THE COLLEGE COST REDUCTION ACT.

House Education Chairwoman Virginia Foxx's H.R. 6951 finally addresses the root cause of increasingly expensive college degrees. Republicans are stepping up to fix the problem permanently with a bill that will lower college costs for students and families.

3. OVERTURN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION'S HARMFUL GAINFUL EMPLOYMENT RULE.

The federal government plays an important role in the higher education space, through the allocation of student aid and grants to qualifying students. As Congress works to pass a major education policy package this year, it's crucial that lawmakers support student access to all institutions of higher education.

4. DEFEND CRITICAL PARTNERSHIPS BETWEEN EDUCATION TECH PROVIDERS AND UNIVERSITIES.

Last year, the Department of Education tried to curtail partnerships between online program managers and institutions of higher education by issuing slapdash new guidance, bypassing the negotiated rulemaking process. Congress should consider legislation that protects these partnerships and their contributions to innovation, affordability, and access in higher education.

5. INTENSIFY OVERSIGHT EFFORTS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION'S RULEMAKINGS AND POLITICAL APPOINTEES.

Richard Cordray's Student Financial Aid Office of Enforcement endlessly harasses career colleges without any clear legal guidelines. Congress should set standards, investigate their overreach, and hold these unelected bureaucrats accountable.



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