



**TRANSCRIPT OF JAYME STEVENSON STATEMENT ON STUDENT LOAN FORGIVENESS
8/25/2022**

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I'm sure there are many Americans who are breathing a sigh of relief with President Biden's executive order to cut federal student loan debt by up to \$20,000 for the select few who qualify.

The new rules also cap payments based on income levels, eliminate loan interest accrual and **continue** the pause on student loan payments until January 2023.

After all, the federal government destroyed our economy with pandemic restrictions and the American people are really suffering the consequences. Job loss, a 10%+ increase in the cost of living and skyrocketing energy costs have created an overall sense of instability and uncertainty.

As parents who shouldered the financial burden of five college tuitions for our children, I understand how meaningful this decision may feel to the few who will benefit.

For so many others however, this decision highlights the unfairness that pervades the Biden/Himes administration.

It is a slap in the face to our military service members who literally put their lives on the line to earn college educations under the GI Bill and every other American, including my parents (maybe yours too), who played by the rules and took out loans for themselves or their children because they knew that the opportunity of getting a college education gave them a better chance to succeed - it was worth the price.

They worked hard everyday, sacrificed and saved, to pay back those loans on time and in full. Other students and parents were brought up to buy only what they could afford... they worked their way through college one semester at a time and chose a school that worked within their budget. *And, then,* many had to forgo college because they simply couldn't afford it.

Changing the rules erodes trust - - **and trust in our government is at an all time low.**

The inconvenient truth about this decree is that only a small portion of student loan holders will benefit. Just 17.6% will be impacted because the rest are private loans - excluded from benefits.

The federal government at it again, **picking winners and losers.**

The trends are clear. Taxpayers at large picking up the tab for the benefits of the few.

If you believe this is what President Biden and Jim Himes and democrat leaders stand for, welcome to Socialist America.

What they've missed is an honest conversation about why college has gotten so expensive in the first place.

I would argue that the very fact that our federal government guarantees student loans has given colleges and universities a no-limit credit card to spend which, in turn, raises tuition.

A great college that cost \$4,000 per year 40 years ago, today costs \$75,000...a 1,775% increase. College education has become unaffordable for most hard-working Americans.

Colleges and universities need "skin in the game" to lower the cost of higher education and to help guarantee students have access to good paying jobs after graduation.

I believe most Americans want a fair deal, rules they can count on, a chance to reap the benefits of a good education and to prosper from their hard work.

People want government leaders they can trust, who will stand up and speak out against unfair policies.

Where is Jim Himes through all of this? Why is he silent?

By any good and reasonable process, this should have been by Act of Congress, not another Presidential Executive Order. Americans deserve better.

If you believe this too, I'm the right choice to serve as your next Congresswoman in Connecticut's 4th Congressional District. Join my team at JaymeStevensonforCongress.com to help bring fairness and sanity back to Congress!