

107

**Macias, Wendy**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 17, 2009 10:52 PM  
**To:** negreg09  
**Subject:** Student Loan Issue

I am totally caught up in the default nightmare that has become an inescapable situation due to the lack of standard consumer protections for student loan borrowers. I originally borrowed less than \$28000 and currently have a balance that exceeds \$72000. My situation is not the exception. It is the rule.

Here's the thing that bothers me the most. If I had a dozen credit cards and ran them up on acquiring junk I didn't need I could wipe out my debt. I don't have a single credit card. I don't have extras and I don't have junk. My debt consists of student loans and living expenses and taxes. Following six years of being a full-time caregiver to my fiance who died last year from multiple brain tumors, I am facing certain financial ruin including losing my home. Life happened to us. Underemployment happened.

I have had difficulty finding work despite multiple skill sets and many doors are closed to me--including federal jobs because of my student loans. My credit is so bad I can't get reliable transportation to insure I can get to work once I get that ever-illusivive job.

I have heard so many stories similar to mine. You cannot get anything in writing so you can protect yourself, loans are resold time and again, most of the time I didn't know who held the loan. The whole situation is a mess.

To further explain the unreasonableness of this system I can tell you that these predatory practices go beyond the bounds of humanity. My fiance had his student loans dismissed because of his health. We went through a grueling process with his neurosurgeon filling out paperwork and finally thought the matter resolved. It wasn't. As he lie dying I was getting calls and letters [the latter are still coming in the mail] harassing for this money again despite the debt being cleared by their process years ago. While we struggled to survive through his disease his disability check was cut by over \$100 to pay a student loan that should have been a non-issue at that point. His care and needs were very expensive and I was left with a little less than \$800 a month to manage those expenses. Ironically, because I cared for him at home I saved the government what? \$10000 a month that it would have cost for nursing home care. He wanted to die at home and it may well cost me everything I ever worked for but should it cost me my future as well? I don't want to declare bankruptcy but even if I did have to--with the over \$70000 in student loan debt--exactly how would I rebuild my life? I can't declare bankruptcy on student loans. I can't get past that debt--ever. And that's not fair and equitable treatment under the law.

For student loans there are no remedies regardless of the circumstances. How is this even common sense? What makes student borrowers a target for predatory practices??

My ideal would be to get a good paying job and be able to pay my bills. I don't think I should be paying three times my original debt to clear my name regardless. Many people feel the same way but are just so buried by this, so angry, so frustrated that they don't pay anything at all. Afterall--what is

the point if one can never get out from under this burden??--EVER.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my feelings on this. Your action in leveling student loan borrowers to the same playing field as all consumers is the right thing to do. The fair thing to do. I pray you will consider that.