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From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Monday, June 15, 2009 11:39 PM  
To: negreg09  
Subject: Student Loan comments

I am replying in an informal way but need to say something I may send a letter as well.

When I was receiving disability for a long term condition I was unable to discharge the loans even though I could not pay. A lawyer advised me to go into default and he would work on discharging some or part by me declaring bankruptcy. He did no such thing he just took the little money I had. My brother was scammed as well.

My health improved over six years. I went to graduate school on scholarship and took no loans out. By then I had years of teaching experience teaching children with disabilities. I applied for Teach for America and despite my academic achievements 3 scholarships and two degrees and teaching experience I could not even qualify for a program that gave some relief for my loans. I was not hired.

When I applied for the loans it was the only option I had to go to school. Both my parents are disabled, my mother severely disabled and my father disabled and retired. There was no other alternative. But it hangs like a serious burden. And now after graduation my post in the public schools ended they have no money so I am now unemployed.

My student loan rates also increased without me knowing it. Apparently a fixed rate is not a fixed rate.

This form of lending preys upon the most needy and most vulnerable. Many of my peers had their parents pay their tuition. This system is an exploitation of the poor. The fact that these loans are not dischargeable makes students' loans a sort of center prison.

I am now thirty eight by the time I pay my loans off completely I will be nearing retirement. Such a thought just makes this all the more depressing and hopeless.

But there is more. Education standards have decreased while the expense increases. Many I know including myself consider graduate school a scam to extort more money.

In many European Universities tuition is free. This has problems too but can our tuitions at least be affordable?

When I read the articles of students being \$10,000 in debt it is ridiculous. I am \$53,000 in debt, another friend is \$80,000 in debt others are more. Most do not know how bad this is. \$20,000 of my debt is interest!

The student loan system is vampiric it sucks the life vitality out of the young. How grotesque. But also look at the loss to America. Without my student loans I would have more spending power. Multiply that by millions of young people.

When graduates complain about their big student loan payments we are told "well you got a degree because of student loans" there seem to be an active conspiracy to keep this all in place.