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Passion for Liberty

Last week, Joe Biden announced a student loan forgiveness program, as college debt has become a large obstacle for creating individual wealth, but who wins with student loan forgiveness?

The colleges win, because the debts are paid. The politicians win, because they offer promises of debt forgiveness to win more votes. The graduates in upper-middle class families win, because the debt they chose to incur, will be wiped away.

Who loses? ...everyone else, by a ratio of 7:1. Those who didn't go to college, because it was too expensive would now pay anyway. Those who worked hard to save for college or endured much hardship to pay off their loans, would pay for the loans of others.

This is the latest "take from the poor and give to the rich" strategy from the left.

The claim that we need to have a college education to secure a bright future, happens to profit the government through student loans. Then, many universities raise the tuition, to take advantage of the youthful hope that their investment will be worth the great expense. As student loans increase, so do tuition payments. For every \$1 students are loaned, tuition increases \$0.60.

If college tuition becomes subsidized by taxpayers, colleges will increase tuition even more rapidly. Unfortunately, the money that the colleges are generating have not improved the quality of education. Many with degrees are occupying jobs that 10 years ago, did not require a degree. However, equity and inclusion bureaucracies and buildings to house them have absorbed these funds. Many universities offer degrees that simply don't provide a good return on investment,

because their qualifications support school administration, bureaucracy, and inflated, corporate HR departments.

Forgiving \$10K per borrower will cost taxpayers \$300 billion. It would cost \$1.8 trillion to wipe out college debt, with the majority of taxpayers, being the ones that opted not to take on college debt. The lower-middle class will pay at the expense of the college-educated who financed their education.

Truthfully, the student debt predicament is real and the burden is crippling the ability to create wealth, which stifles the entire economy and the next generation.

1st: We must break the cycle that incentivizes high tuition. That means decreasing college education tuition and availability of student loans. Universities need to trim the programs that are not essential to quality education.

2nd: If relief is needed, it should come from the universities, not the taxpayers. They are the ones that should bear the brunt of this burden, because they contributed to the problem. They need to contribute to the solution.

The last Washington state legislative session allocated \$2 million to 5 of our state universities. This needs to be carefully reviewed.

I say this as an educated individual. I have a BS in plant science from Fresno St University, and an MS in Horticulture from UC Davis. Both were colleges with reasonable, below average tuition costs, at the time. My parents paid for my tuition, and necessary living expenses for my undergrad degree, but the expense was shared where it could be shared. When I went to school at Fresno state, my food budget was \$6/day. We all did what we could to make it work. I also have 5 kids, the oldest enrolled in a local college, paying his own way, without loans.

I value education, but Universities have not delivered on their promises. A taxpayer government bail out to universities and their victims only encourages bad behavior.

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This is a picture with a family at the county fair. Talking about the issues and signing initiatives.