



DAILY BRIEFING

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Weekly Rundown

The NCHER Weekly Rundown, which includes the latest information on important events in Washington, DC, is available today and can be downloaded from the [NCHER website](#).

Senate Banking Committee Republicans Send Letter to CFPB Expressing Concern with the Bureau's Recent

Actions

Last week, Senate Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Committee, led by Ranking Member Pat Toomey (R-PA), Sen. Richard Shelby (R-AL), and Sen. Mike Crapo (R-ID), sent a [letter](#) to Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) Director Rohit Chopra expressing concern that the Bureau is turning into a “a lawless and unaccountable agency.” The Committee Republicans allege that the CFPB has engaged in inappropriate and legally dubious tactics, which have damaged the reputations of financial institutions and will ultimately lead to costlier credit for consumers. The letter argues that the CFPB is unfairly shaming banks for charging overdraft fees, a legal practice, and recently issued two proposed rules that will allow the Bureau to disclose previously confidential information about nonbank institutions, making it harder for the companies to defend themselves against novel enforcement theories. The letter concludes by urging the CFPB to stop using these tactics to unfairly shame financial institutions and harm their relationships with customers “in order to advance your liberal policy preferences.” For additional coverage, see this article from [insideARM](#).

White House Domestic Policy Council’s Carmel Martin Moves to Office of Vice President

Politico is reporting that White House Domestic Policy Council (DPC) Deputy Director Carmel Martin, who has been working on the Biden Administration’s higher education policy since January 2020, has been selected to serve as a new senior adviser to Vice President Kamala Harris. The Vice President’s previous adviser, Rohini Kosoglu, left the position in July. Ms. Martin served as a senior advisor to the Biden campaign and a former staffer for the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee. The White House has not yet made a public statement on Ms. Martin’s move or who will replace her at DPC.

CBO Responds to House Republicans on Estimates of Federal Student Loan Program Costs Since 2010

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) recently released a [letter](#) responding to Rep. Warren Davidson (R-OH) and other members for information about the office’s estimates of the cost of federal student loan programs and how they have changed since 2010. The letter says that, overall, the estimated cost of the federal student loan program has increased since 2010. In CBO’s assessment, the increases primarily stem from the use of

income-driven repayment plans and not from eliminating the federal guaranteed student loan program and replacing it with Direct Loans. The repayment plans are more costly to the government than fixed payment plans, CBO said in the letter, because the required payments are generally lower since they depend on borrowers' income, and borrowers may be eligible to have their unpaid balances forgiven after a certain number of payments. The letter says that CBO is currently analyzing the effects of the President's announcement on August 24, 2022 on federal student loan forgiveness, and estimates of the effects of that action will be published as soon as they are completed.

Recent Polling Finds Partisan Divide on Federal Student Forgiveness

Morning Consult recently released the [results](#) of polling that found voters are nearly split on the White House's federal student loan forgiveness plan. The plan announced in August 2022 is deeply unpopular among Republican voters and opposed by most Independent voters, while a majority of Democratic voters either strongly or somewhat approve of the Biden Administration's plan. The polling is somewhat aligned with the results of a poll taken in February of 2020, which found that a majority of Republicans and most older voters opposed executive action on cancelling federal student loan debt, while half of surveyed Democrats and a plurality of young voters and Independents supported some debt cancellation. Among all registered voters surveyed after the announcement, only 29 percent responded that they strongly support the plan, while 31 percent indicated that they strongly oppose the forgiveness plan. In terms of ideologies, those respondents who identified as moderate voters were almost evenly split in their views on the loan forgiveness plan – 28 percent of moderate voters strongly support the administration's plan, while 21 percent of moderates strongly oppose the plan. While they differ in their views on the decision, conservatives feel more strongly about loan forgiveness – 62 percent of conservative voters strongly oppose the federal loan forgiveness plan, while 50 percent of liberals strongly support the plan. It remains to be seen how much – if at all – the loan forgiveness announcement will drive voters to the polls during the upcoming midterm elections. For more coverage of recent polling, see this article from [Vox](#).

U.S. Department of Education News

For today's *Federal Register*, click [here](#).

The following announcements were posted on Federal Student Aid's Knowledge Center website:

- [2023–24 CPS Test System ISIR Comment Codes](#)
 - [2023–24 CPS Test System Electronic ISIR Test Data](#)
 - [2023–24 CPS Test System Paper ISIR Test Data](#)
 - [2023–24 CPS Test System Paper Application Test Data](#)
 - [2023–24 CPS Test System Electronic Application Test Data](#)
 - [\(APP-22-19\) Availability of 2023–24 CPS Web Applications Demonstration \(Web Demo\) System and 2023–24 CPS Mainframe Test System](#)
 - [\(GENERAL-22-70\) Updated Guidance and Procedures for Changes in Ownership](#)
 - [Comment Request: Federal Perkins Loan Program Regulations and General Provisions Regulations](#)
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General News

[The Guardian](#) reports that House and Senate Republicans are seeking to challenge the White House's federal student loan forgiveness program in the courts and are making it a key talking point in the midterm elections.

[Business Insider](#) reports that Navient Chief Executive Officer Jack Remondi said he will not sue the Biden Administration on the federal student loan forgiveness plan. However, he did note his company would have standing to bring forth legal action.

[CNBC](#) reports on how borrowers should calculate their bill for federal student loan forgiveness, if he or she lives in one of the seven states that may tax it.

[The New York Times](#) reports that federal student loan forgiveness could have dangerous, unintended side effects with experts worrying that aspects of the President's plan could lure unscrupulous schools and unknowing students.

[Pensions and Investments](#) reports that the White House's new plan for federal student loan forgiveness could lead to increased savings in retirement plans, experts said, but the issue of student loan debt is not going away any time soon.

[National Review](#) reports that House Oversight and Reform Committee Ranking Member James Comer (R-KY) and House Education and Labor Committee Ranking Member

Virginia Foxx (R-NY) recently demanded information from the White House about whether any administration officials who helped craft the federal student loan “forgiveness” plan will benefit from the relief.

[Inside Higher Ed](#) reports that, once a hot topic in higher education, income-share agreements (ISA) have faced increasing scrutiny in recent years. Now, even as some colleges and universities wind their ISA programs down, Stanford Law School is going a different route and launching a new pilot program for the agreements.

[Higher Ed Dive](#) reports that, last week, House Democrats introduced legislation that would double the maximum award for the Pell Grant program and substantially rework the federal student loan program, including changes to the Public Service Loan Forgiveness program.

[Inside Higher Ed](#) and [The Chronicle of Higher Education](#) report that the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation plans to give \$100 million over the next five years to six nonprofit organizations, or “transformation intermediaries.” The group will be tasked with helping at least 250 higher education institutions boost student success and close equity gaps.

[The Chronicle of Higher Education](#) reports that growing out-of-state enrollment at flagship colleges and universities could be worsening the student loan debt crisis.

[The Hill](#) includes an op-ed by Mackinac Center for Public Policy’s Director of Labor Policy Steve Delie who argues that state legislatures could save taxpayers from absorbing student loan debt.

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