



DAILY BRIEFING

Monday, February 14, 2022

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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](#).

House Appropriations Committee Member Cole Introduces Can't Cancel Your Own Debt Act

Last week, House Appropriations Committee Member Tom Cole (R-OK) introduced [H.R. 6668, the Can't Cancel Your Own Debt Act](#). This legislation would disqualify Members of Congress from participating in federal programs enacted during their tenure to cancel

federal or private student loans, whether established by executive order, agency action, or an Act of Congress. It would also bar Members of Congress from any service- or employment-based student loan cancellation for time served in the U.S. House of Representatives or U.S. Senate. The bill has been referred to the House Education and Labor Committee.

“The American people expect their representatives to act impartially and in the best interests of their constituents – not their own financial interest,” said Rep. Cole. “It is simply unconscionable that a Member of Congress making an annual salary of \$174,000, paid for by the American taxpayer, could then personally benefit by voting to cancel the repayment of their federal student loans. Members of Congress collecting a six-figure salary should surely be required to repay the money they borrowed from the U.S. Treasury. Members should not be voting for or advocating for legislation or executive orders that put their pocketbooks over policy. Indeed, it is corrupt, and I am introducing this legislation because a number of my congressional colleagues seem to have forgotten that. When members of Congress are pushing policies that selectively cancel certain types of debts and use thresholds that are tailored to their own situations, we must ask ourselves: who are they really fighting for?”

For more coverage, see this article from [The Oklahoman](#).

FCC Chair Rosenworcel Announces Support for Requiring Consent for Ringless Voice Mails

Earlier this month, Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Chairwoman Jessica Rosenworcel **announced** that she is proposing to require callers to obtain a consumer’s consent before delivering a ringless voicemail, a message left in their mailbox without ringing the cell phone. “Ringless voicemails can be annoying, invasive, and lead to fraud like other robocalls - so it should face the same consumer protection rules,” said Chairwoman Rosenworcel. “No one wants to wade through voicemail spam, or miss important messages because their mailbox is full. This FCC action would continue to empower consumers to choose which parties they give permission to contact them.” The Telephone Consumer Protection Act (TCPA) prohibits making any non-emergency call using an automatic telephone dialing system or an artificial or prerecorded voice to a wireless telephone number without the prior express consent of the called party. The proposal from Chairwoman Rosenworcel is in response to a March 2017 petition filed by

All About the Message, Inc., in which the organization asked the FCC to exempt ringless voicemails from anti-robocall rules. That petition, however, was withdrawn in late-2017. For further coverage, see this article from [insideARM](#).

U.S. Department of Education News

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

The following announcement was posted to Federal Student Aid's Knowledge Center website:

- [\(GENERAL-22-08\) Final Reminder! Perform Mandatory SAIG Software Upgrade and Install EDconnect Security Patch by Feb. 20, 2022](#)

Member News



The Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority (KHEAA) recently sent out a [press release](#), which announced that the state's high school juniors could take the ACT for free in March and provided tips to help students

improve their performance. "Many colleges use a student's ACT score to help make decisions about admissions and financial aid," Gov. Andy Beshear said. "Each year, Kentucky provides its public high school juniors an opportunity to take the ACT exam at no cost. This test can give them a sense of how prepared they are for education after high school should they choose to go that route. I urge students to take full advantage of this free offering and do their best when they get this chance in March."



iGrad announced that it has partnered with Emerson College in Boston to provide its customized, interactive online and mobile [student financial wellness platform](#)

iGrad announced that it has partnered with Emerson College in Boston to provide its customized, interactive online and mobile [student financial wellness platform](#) to 5,000 undergraduate and graduate students. iGrad's platform at Emerson College includes comprehensive customized and interactive information for students, including how to build and maintain good credit, budgeting and money management tips and tools, and student loan/debt management information and loan calculators.

General News

[Inside Higher Ed](#) reports that, last week, the Governor of Maine announced a plan to provide two years of free community college to qualified students in the state.

[The Chronicle of Higher Education](#) reports that public flagship colleges and universities in conservative states are facing reputational and recruiting challenges.

The Commonwealth of Virginia's State Council of Higher Education Ombudsman's Office announced that it will offer a student loan help site webinar demo on February 23, 2022. Join the webinar to learn how this new tool can be an affordable way to create a positive impact on the financial literacy and wellness for your state or other constituency. To register, click [here](#).

[Forbes](#) publishes a column examining whether discharging student loans in bankruptcy will get easier as the Biden Administration sends mixed messages.

Senate Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Committee Chairman Sherrod Brown (D-OH) recently issued a [press release](#) regarding letters to the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau by seven senators and the Student Borrower Protection Center expressing concerns that private student loan lenders and servicers are intentionally misrepresenting to borrowers the possibility of discharging "non-qualified" private

student loans in bankruptcy.

[Forbes](#) reports that Dollywood Parks and Resorts will pay 100 percent of tuition for all of its employees as a way to eliminate their student loans.

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