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BRIEFING

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NCHER
Weekly Rundown

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 Education and the Workforce Committee
Republicans Send Letter to Education Secretary Detailing
Concerns About Student Loan Forgiveness Fraud**

Last week, House Education and the Workforce Committee Chairwoman Virginia Foxx (R-NC) and House Higher Education and Workforce Development Subcommittee Chairman Burgess Owens (R-UT) sent a [letter](#) to Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona raising concerns with the U.S. Department of Education's application for federal student loan forgiveness, which allows borrowers to self-certify their income. In the letter, the members say that, earlier this year, Comptroller General Gene Dodaro said that federal agencies should have been much better prepared in order to prevent fraud in the administration of COVID-19 relief funds. Even though the federal student loan forgiveness plan is especially susceptible to fraud, the Department is not contemplating a required verification of income in order to qualify for forgiveness. The letter asks the Secretary a series of questions about the agency's plan to use self-certification with a response due in two weeks.

White House OIRA Concludes Regulatory Review of New IDR Plan, Department Can Publish Final Rule

Last week, the White House Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (OIRA) at the Office of Management and Budget concluded its [regulatory review](#) of the U.S. Department of Education's new Income-Driven Repayment (IDR) Plan. This is the step in the review process and means that the Department can publish the rule in the Federal Register. Under the master calendar requirements mandated by Congress, the Department has to publish a final rule prior to November 1st to have the rule go into effect for the start of an award year, which begins on July 1. In this case, the Department will meet the master calendar deadline but is expected to move for early implementation.

Bipartisan House Members Introduce Student Loan Refinancing Act

Last week, Reps. Mike Turner (R-OH), Donald Norcross (D-NJ), Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA), and Lloyd Doggett (D-TX) introduced [H.R. 4139, the Student Loan Refinancing Act](#), which will allow federal student loan borrowers, including those with Federal Direct Loans and Federal Family Education Loans, to refinance their loans into new Direct Loans at the current Award Year's rate while remaining public borrowers. "Our nation's student loan crisis is unsustainable and should not be a partisan issue in Congress," Rep. Turner said in a [press release](#). "The commonsense, common-ground legislation we are introducing today would give borrowers the ability to refinance their loans at lower interest rates. I am grateful to partner with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle on the Student Loan

Refinancing Act to ensure that American families and borrowers have more flexibility as they work to pay back their loans.” The bill has been referred to the House Education and the Workforce Committee.

U.S. Department of Education News

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

The following announcements were posted to Federal Student Aid’s Knowledge Center:


- [\(GENERAL-23-49\) ALERT: Critical Vulnerability in MOVEit Transfer Software](#)
 - [System of Privacy Notice Records](#)
 - [\(GENERAL-23-48\) Reminder – July 31, 2023 Reporting Deadline for Section 117 of the Higher Education Act of 1965](#)
 - [\(GENERAL-23-47\) Volume 6 – The Campus-Based Programs \[2023-2024 Federal Student Aid Handbook\]](#)
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General News

[CBS News](#) reports that the U.S. Supreme Court could issue its ruling on the constitutionality of the U.S. Department of Education’s federal student loan forgiveness program as early as this Thursday, and what borrowers should know.

[Business Insider](#) reports that Supreme Court Justice Amy Coney Barrett may have signaled how the court might rule on the federal student loan forgiveness when she rejected that Texas did not have standing to challenge a case involving the Indian Child Welfare Act.

[Inside Higher Ed](#) discusses the U.S. Department of Education’s proposed rules on gainful employment, which will increase accountability and reporting for colleges, as the public comment period ends today.



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