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United States Senate
COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND
URBAN AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6075

April 1, 2021

The Honorable Maura Healey
Attorney General of Massachusetts
1 Ashburton Place, 20th Floor
Boston, MA 02108

Dear Attorney General Healey:

I invite you to appear before the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs' Subcommittee on Economic Policy to testify at a hearing entitled "The Student Debt Burden and Its Impact on Racial Justice, Borrowers, & the Economy." The hearing is scheduled to take place virtually at 2:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 13, 2021.

This hearing will examine the impact of the growing student debt crisis on borrowers, the racial wealth gap, and the economy at large, as well as how our current student loan system is failing to protect borrowers and provide relief.

Your work on behalf of Massachusetts borrowers gives you a unique perspective on this crisis. You recently finalized a settlement with the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA) to address its mismanagement of the Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) program, as well as "allegations that PHEAA delayed in processing Income-Driven Repayment (IDR) applications, causing borrowers to get off track with their payments, and erroneously caused Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education (TEACH) Grant recipients to have their grants wrongly converted to loans."¹ You have also forced the discharge of thousands of loans for students who were defrauded by Corinthian Colleges in Massachusetts² and created the first Student Loan Assistance Unit in the nation to help borrowers understand

¹ Office of Attorney General Maura Healey, "AG Healey Secures First-of-its-Kind Relief in Settlement with Major Student Loans Servicer," February 10, 2021, <https://www.mass.gov/news/ag-healey-secures-first-of-its-kind-relief-in-settlement-with-major-student-loan-servicer#:~:text=The%20settlement%20reached%20with%20the,qualifying%20payments%20towards%20loan%20forgiveness.>

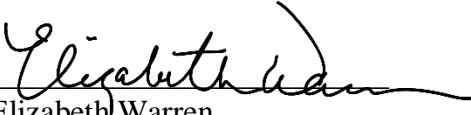
² Office of Attorney General Maura Healey, "AG Healey Celebrates Court Decision Ordering Secretary DeVos to Cancel Federal Loans of Defrauded Corinthian Students in Massachusetts," June 26, 2020, <https://www.mass.gov/news/ag-healey-celebrates-court-decision-ordering-secretary-devos-to-cancel-federal-loans-of.>

their repayment options and address their high balances, credit harm, wage garnishment, and other challenges resulting from their student debt.³

Your testimony will provide you with an opportunity to offer context on the burden of student loans on borrowers and the economy and your experience advocating on behalf of borrowers. As part of your testimony, please provide the Subcommittee with your assessment of the impact of student loans on the borrowers in Massachusetts, their ability to repay those loans, the ability of current repayment plans such as IDR and PSLF to provide borrowers with relief, and the ability of the Education Department to effectively oversee the activities of borrowers and loan servicers.

If you have any questions regarding this hearing, please do not hesitate to contact Abby McCartney at abby_mccartney@warren.senate.gov. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Sincerely,


Elizabeth Warren
Chair
Subcommittee on Economic Policy

³ Office of Attorney General Maura Healey, “AG Healey Calls Out Education Secretary DeVos for Revoking Critical Student Loan Servicing Reforms,” April 24, 2017, <https://www.mass.gov/news/ag-healey-calls-out-education-secretary-devos-for-revoking-critical-student-loan-servicing>.