1845-0102 Income Driven Repayment Plan Request for the William D. Ford Federal Direct Loans and Federal Family Education Loan Programs

ED-2025-SCC-0015

60 Day Public Comments

ID	Comment	Response
ED-2025- SCC-0015- 0006 Anonymou s	**1. Summary of the Regulation** The Department proposes to renew an Information Collection Request (ICR) for the Fulbright-Hays Seminars Abroad Program, collecting application and selection data for short-term overseas study and professional development for U.S. educators. The data supports equitable program access and federal oversight of fund allocation.	This form is for borrowers to apply for an Income Driven Repayment Plan. The comments provided appear to reference another information collection.
	2. Comments and Questions	No change.
	On Necessity of the Collection (Point 1)	
	 Comment: "This information collection is necessary to ensure transparency, accountability, and equitable access to federal funds in global education programming." **Supporting Evidence**: Oversight of federally funded education programs, such as Fulbright-Hays, requires detailed application data to evaluate geographic, demographic, and institutional diversity. Transparency promotes equitable access, as seen in Title VI programs (GAO, 2022, https://www.gao.gov/products/gao-22-105203). 	
	On Timely Use of the Information (Point 2)	
	 Comment: "The Department should commit to publishing anonymized aggregate data annually to demonstrate timely 	

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	 use and enhance public trust." **Supporting Evidence**: Timely reporting improves stakeholder confidence and program participation. NSF's annual reports on fellowship applications show how rapid feedback improves applicant preparation (NSF, 2023, https://www.nsf.gov/statistics/). On Burden Estimate Accuracy (Point 3) **Question**: "Has the Department surveyed previous applicants to validate the estimated 6-hour burden? Is this estimate inclusive of first-time applicants unfamiliar with federal forms?" **Supporting Evidence**: Research suggests first-time applicants face a steeper time burden than returning users due to required narratives and budget justifications (Urban Institute, 2020, https://www.urban.org/research/publication/improving-access- 	
	federal-grants). On Improving Quality, Utility, and Clarity (Point 4) - **Comment**: "The Department should include optional demographic questions to assess outreach success among underrepresented educators and publish findings." - **Supporting Evidence**: Demographic data is key to improving outreach in federally funded fellowships and assessing progress toward equity goals. For example, the Department of Education's Civil Rights Data Collection enhances equity analysis in school programs (ED, 2021, https://ocrdata.ed.gov/).	

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	 - **Comment**: "The Department should simplify language in the application instructions to align with federal plain language standards." - **Supporting Evidence**: Plain language increases comprehension and reduces application abandonment. The Plain Writing Act of 2010 requires clarity in public communications (OMB, 2011, https://www.plainlanguage.gov/law/). 	
	On Minimizing Burden via Technology (Point 5)	
	 - **Comment**: "The Department should enable auto- population of applicant profiles via login.gov to reduce redundancy across submissions." - **Supporting Evidence**: Login.gov integration has streamlined application burden for multiple federal services and aligns with recent GSA digital service modernization efforts (GSA, 2023, https://login.gov/). 	
	 - **Comment**: "A downloadable sample application or annotated example would improve clarity and reduce trial-and- error formatting for educators." - **Supporting Evidence**: Federal agencies such as the NIH provide sample proposals and application guides to minimize burden and increase submission quality (NIH, 2022, https://grants.nih.gov/grants/how-to-apply-application- guide.htm). 	
	3. References and Citations	
	- Government Accountability Office (GAO), 2022, "Actions Needed to Ensure Title VI Programs Achieve Their Goals,"	

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ED-2025- SCC-0015- 0005 Emma Murphy	https://www.gao.gov/products/gao-22-105203 - National Science Foundation (NSF), 2023, "NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program Annual Report," https://www.nsf.gov/statistics/ - Urban Institute, 2020, "Improving Access to Federal Grants," https://www.urban.org/research/publication/improving-access- federal-grants - U.S. Department of Education (ED), 2021, "Civil Rights Data Collection," https://ocrdata.ed.gov/ - Office of Management and Budget (OMB), 2011, "Plain Writing Act Guidelines," https://www.plainlanguage.gov/law/ - General Services Administration (GSA), 2023, "Login.gov," https://login.gov/ - National Institutes of Health (NIH), 2022, "Application Guide," https://grants.nih.gov/grants/how-to-apply-application- guide.htm The SAVE option is necessary in a system which promotes the excesses of loan companies and suppresses the rights of all people to an affordable education in an economy that only prioritizes the wealth of the already wealthy. No job pays enough to comfortably pay student loans, and no college worth attending is affordable. The only options that remain are government assistance to citizens with outstanding loans or government plans to inject education with more funding and put caps on the amount that colleges are allowed to charge. This whole system is broken and this SAVE option is one of the only lifelines we who have loans have been given since the Carter administration. Do not remove it.	The Department thanks you for this comment, but on Feb. 18, 2025, a federal court issued a new injunction preventing the U.S. Department of Education (ED) from implementing the Saving on a Valuable Education (SAVE) Plan and parts of other income-driven repayment (IDR) plans. No change.
ED-2025- SCC-0015-	I wholeheartedly support my president and this administration, but I have to disagree with the stance on removing the SAVE	The Department thanks you for taking the time to

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0004	plan. So many of us went into default because the	provide this comment, but
Stacy	compounded interest on already high loans were impossible to	on Feb. 18, 2025, a federal
Alamond	keep up with. Also, the IDR and other plans base salary on the	court issued a new
	total amount of household income. I was not married and did	injunction preventing the
	not know my current husband when I attended college, so it's	U.S. Department of
	my financial responsibility and I understand that. In my 30s I	Education (ED) from
	went to college while working full-time and taking care of my	implementing the Saving
	special needs son as a single mother. I achieved degrees in	on a Valuable Education
	Information Design & Technology to provide a better life for my son. My son passed away in 2012 and I could not find a job in	(SAVE) Plan and parts of other income-driven
	my field that wasn't currently being accomplished by Al. I now	repayment (IDR) plans.
	work as a receptionist with New York State (a job I did 25 years	repayment (ibit) plans.
	ago) so that I can benefit from the PLSF. I have 8 more years to	No change.
	go at 45 years old since I currently only make 41k per year. If I	ite changel
	had to do it all over again regarding my education, I never	
	would have attended. I have 2 degrees that cost me 96K.	
	Between my husband and I we make 86K, but we barely get by	
	as it is with our mortgage and car payments. The SAVE plan	
	afforded me a way to survive and still remain current on my	
	loans. Many people will say to me I made this choice and I	
	have to live with the consequences. Yes, I made the choice to	
	try and better myself, but if I have to pay \$1,000 per month for	
	an education that I can't even use, then I will end up losing my	
	home and my ability to get to my job. I understand that	
	President Trump is trying to make our country more	
	independent so they we don't have to depend on foreign	
	entities, but he must know the working class are suffering the	
	most while people who don't work at all get their rent and food paid for. Most people with college degrees strive to find a	
	career and participate in this economy, so why can't our	
	country find a way to help ease their burden?	
ED-2025-	I have been paying my my student loans since 2018 (I	While we appreciate your

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SCC-0015-	originally borrowed \$151,430.25, a combination of	comment, we would
0007	undergraduate and graduate loans). I borrowed the money to	encourage you to reach
Sarah	lift myself out of poverty and working low-wage jobs that didn't	out to your representatives
Ferreria	allow me to make a living wage. I worked both part-time and	in the US Congress
	full-time during school to help pay for my education. I	regarding changes to
	graduated with good grades and I currently work a full-time job	federal law.
	with benefits related to my field of study. I am currently in PAYE	
	and as of today I've made 103 Qualifying Payments and have	No change.
	137 Remaining Payments to make before my forgiveness is	
	honored. I will be 46 in September of 2036 when my	
	forgiveness is honored. Even though I am making monthly	
	payments on the account, the balance is still climbing because	
	the interest rate is higher than the required payment amount,	
	essentially guaranteeing my debt until forgiveness is honored.	
	I would like to formally submit this comment as a plea to	
	please not change any laws surrounding student loan	
	forgiveness. On behalf of hard-working tax-paying Americans	
	who are desperate for student loan forgiveness, and those who	
	are watching their loan amounts grow instead of shrink, changing the laws around the 20-25 year forgiveness would be	
	incredibly detrimental and devastating to my life. Everyone	
	deserves the chance to be lifted out of debt. Please do not	
	change the laws about honoring forgiveness for hard-working	
	tax paying Americans. Thank You.	
ED-2025-	All options should stay on the table when it comes to student	Thank you for your
SCC-0015-	loan repayment and forgiveness. Making loan forgiveness	comment. On Feb. 18,
0008	unattainable after x number of years of payments will leave us	2025, a federal court
Anonymou	with a mass of debt slaves and negatively impact communities	issued a new injunction
S	and the economy. Student aid was supposed to be a way to	preventing the U.S.
	help level the playing field for all income levels to be able to	Department of Education
	afford an education, not only the wealthy. Federal and State	(ED) from implementing
	gift aid programs alone are often a paltry percentage of actual	the Saving on a Valuable

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	educational costs. If you do deny these options to borrowers, the option to have loans dismissed through bankruptcy needs to go back on the table.	Education (SAVE) Plan and parts of other income- driven repayment (IDR) plans. Borrowers do still have the ability to discharge their federal student loans through Bankruptcy.
		No change.
ED-2025- SCC-0015- 0009 Anonymou s	Do you need a financial help? Are you in any financial crisis or do you need funds to start up your own business? Do you need funds to settle your debt or pay off your bills or start a good business? Do you have a low credit score and you are finding it hard to obtain capital services from local banks and other financial institutes? Here is your chance to obtain a financial services from our company. We offer the following finance to individuals- *Commercial finance *Personal finance *Business finance *Business finance And many More: we give out loan at 2% interest rate; Contact Us Via Email:lissarobinson0@gmail.com	This form is for borrowers to apply for an Income Driven Repayment Plan. The comments provided appear to reference an unrelated topic. No change.
ED-2025- SCC-0015- 0010	I am a student loan borrower who is employed with a defined qualified employer for PSLF and I am 12 payments away from being able to claim PSLF. Due to the fight over Biden, I	Thank you for your comment. This form is for borrowers to apply for an
Anonymou s	 could have been only 4 months away. I have followed all the rules and filed my paperwork religiously since I started in 2015. I am frustrated at the current pause and the slowness of processing paperwork and changes at the Department of ED, 	Income-Driven Repayment Plan and is not directly related to Public Service Loan Forgiveness.

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	but changing the definition of a qualified employer for PSLF will render certain organizations unqualified. We need to keep a definition that is not loose and will define, without interpretation, who is a qualified employer to keep PSLF. For that definition to contain an arbitrary set of rules for who is and isn't a qualified employer will hinder many people from claiming what they have worked hard towards. For those of us that have put in the years of service to fulfill the qualifications to get PSLF loans, those loans should still qualify under PSLF and that program and the definition of qualified employer should remain the same. I also believe that we should keep PSLF and other IDR programs, these programs help to ensure that others will enter in to the job market for the qualified employers.	No change.
ED-2025- SCC-0015- 0011 Anonymou s	I understand the focus on student debt taken by students, but there is an often forgotten group of people that should have access to income driven repayment plans. These are the parents who have taken Parent PLUS loans and end up more in debt that the students taking out maximum Direct loans for both undergrad and graduate. Why are the parents excluded when in reality their loans are the same as student borrowers. You already have a built in forgiveness program, why not let them have advantage of at least one of the income driven plans. You have parents who are on social security or 401Ks and a generation that still may have their own student loans to pay off. Please consider including in these repayment plan options parents who do not have the means or limits in borrowing as students do.	Thank you for your comment. Borrowers that have consolidated their parent PLUS loans are eligible for the Income- Contingent Repayment plan which is one of the Income-Driven Repayment plans. Access for parent PLUS borrowers to other Income-Driven Repayment plans would require a change in statute. The Department cannot make this change without Congressional action.
		No change.

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ED-2025-	On Maintaining Borrower Clarity	Thank you for your
SCC-0015-		comments.
0012	Comment: The Department should clearly label the reverted	1. On Feb. 18, 2025, a
Anonymou	IDR Request Form as a temporary version and commit to	federal court issued
S	providing borrower outreach explaining the ongoing litigation	a new injunction
	and future changes to avoid confusion, especially for first-	preventing the U.S.
	generation and low-income borrowers.	Department of
		Education (ED) from
	Supporting Evidence: Confusing administrative processes	implementing the
	disproportionately impact borrowers from historically	Saving on a Valuable
	marginalized communities. (Student Borrower Protection	Education (SAVE)
	Center, 2023, https://protectborrowers.org/reports/barriers-	Plan and parts of
	and-burdens/)	other income-driven
		repayment (IDR)
	On Digital Access and Equity	plans. This form will
	Comments ED should ensure that the undeted IDD form is	not be "temporary" unless we receive
	Comment: ED should ensure that the updated IDR form is	additional direction
	mobile-optimized and available in multiple languages to close equity gaps for borrowers without broadband or fluent English	from the Court.
	literacy.	from the court.
		2. We would encourage
	Supporting Evidence: The FCC found 24% of Americans without	borrowers that would
	home internet rely primarily on smartphones for access,	like to use their
	underscoring the need for mobile-first design. (FCC, 2021,	mobile device to
	https://www.fcc.gov/reports-research/reports/broadband-	apply for an Income-
	progress-reports/2021-broadband-progress-report)	Driven Repayment
		plan to use our
	On Minimizing Recertification Burden	mobile-responsive
		IDR application on
	Comment: ED should consider an interim policy allowing	StudentAid.gov
	borrowers to self-certify family size for 2025 without income	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,
	verification delays caused by form confusion or litigation	3. Thank you for your

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	interruptions.	suggestion to allow
		borrowers to self-
	Supporting Evidence: During the COVID-19 emergency, self-	certify their income
	certification successfully minimized borrower hardship without	and family size.
	significant fraud. (Federal Student Aid, CARES Act Reports,	
	2021,	4. While we appreciate
	https://studentaid.gov/announcements-events/coronavirus)	your comments,
		administrative
	On Protecting Borrowers in Administrative Forbearance	forbearance, interest
		subsidies,
	Question: How will ED ensure that borrowers who experience	discharges, and
	delays due to SAVE Plan injunction changes are not wrongly	transparencies of the
	placed into administrative forbearance or accrue additional	repayment plans are
	interest?	not related to the
		Income-Driven
	Supporting Evidence: Past administrative errors during	Repayment
	repayment transitions have disproportionately harmed	information
	borrowers of color. (Brookings Institution, 2022,	collection.
	https://www.brookings.edu/research/student-loan-forgiveness-	
	could-narrow-the-racial-wealth-gap/)	5. The Department is
		committed to, and
	On Reasserting Interest Subsidy Benefits	required by statute,
		to maintaining a
	Comment: ED should track and transparently report the	process for borrowers
	number of borrowers who lose access to interest subsidies due	to apply for an
	to the SAVE rollback and prepare a public mitigation plan	Income-Driven
	should SAVE be reinstated.	Repayment Plan
		using a paper form.
	Supporting Evidence: Interest accrual remains a major driver of	6. We appreciate your
	ballooning student loan balances, especially among low-	comment related to
	income borrowers. (Center for American Progress, 2022,	receiving borrower
	https://www.americanprogress.org/article/why-student-debt-	experience feedback.

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	cancellation-helps-borrowers-most-in-need/)	
	On Borrower Defense and Discharge Alignment	7. We appreciate your comment related to the order by which
	Comment: Borrowers navigating IDR changes should be proactively connected to closed school discharge, borrower	forms are processed.
	defense, and total and permanent disability discharge pathways if eligible, to prevent unnecessary hardship during litigation-induced disruptions.	No changes.
	Supporting Evidence: Integrated outreach across repayment and discharge programs maximizes borrower protections. (GAO, 2021, https://www.gao.gov/products/gao-21-5)	
	On Timeline Transparency	
	Question: Will ED commit to publishing a clear timeline with quarterly updates regarding the litigation's effect on IDR plan operations, so that borrowers can make informed decisions?	
	Supporting Evidence: Lack of clear communication historically worsens borrower anxiety and undermines program participation. (Urban Institute, 2020, https://www.urban.org/research/publication/improving-student-	
	loan-communication)	
	On Paper-Based Processing Equity	
	Comment: ED must ensure that paper-based submission of the revised IDR form remains fully available without additional processing delays for incarcerated borrowers or those living in broadband deserts.	

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	Supporting Evidence: 7% of American households still rely on paper forms to interact with federal programs due to digital divides. (Pew Research Center, 2021, https://www.pewresearch.org/internet/2021/06/22/digital- divide-persists-even-as-americans-with-lower-incomes-make- gains-in-tech-adoption/)	
	On Borrower Experience Feedback	
	Comment: ED should establish a fast-track mechanism for borrower feedback specifically on form usability and error issues during the emergency period to ensure the IDR Request Form remains responsive to real-world needs.	
	Supporting Evidence: Iterative design based on real user feedback increases form accuracy and reduces processing time. (OMB, 2021, https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/M- 21-23.pdf)	
	On Prioritizing Vulnerable Borrowers in Recertification	
	Comment: ED should prioritize processing IDR recertifications for borrowers nearing loan rehabilitation deadlines, Public Service Loan Forgiveness eligibility, or at risk of default.	
	Supporting Evidence: Administrative triaging improves equity outcomes and prevents lifetime wealth losses among vulnerable borrowers. (National Consumer Law Center, 2023, https://www.nclc.org/resources/student-loans/)	
ED-2025	5- My comments and concerns towards this topic goes into the	Thank you for your

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SCC-0015-	direction of the Federal Family Education Loan Programs. The	comments. This form can
0013	US department of education and its loans should give to the	be used for borrowers of a
Dan	students who are in need for assistance the financial aid	Federal Family Education
Parker	proper loans so that they wont be left to have a bill by the	Loan Program (FFELP) loan
	school to which they will eventually have to make the	to apply for Income-Based
	payment. I do appreciate the departments effort to try and	Repayment (IBR) plan.
	help improve access to make it affordable repayment options	
	for the students who do happen to graduate on time. But in the	No changes.
	case to were a student transfers and changes there major	
	holds them back from graduating and then they end up aging	
	out of the process to receive financial aid which shouldn't be	
	the case. Based on the family income and finances there	
	should be aid and resources to help surrounded that student with as much help in order to graduate and not to have to	
	worry about a school bill. Now borrowers under the FFEL	
	program have historically faced more problems and challenges	
	the repayment options compared to the direct loan borrowers.	
	Students in school should be able to lean on these grants and	
	loans for help to pay off there tuition how the payment options	
	work everyone situation is different so in many cases there will	
	be many details to go over like which loan will you sign up for	
	and which grants are you eligible for to receive that finical aid	
	and help. What could help is there is something thats called	
	IDR plan request form which helps the user clear and have	
	accessible to complete formats digitally or on paper could help	
	the confusion when going over the school payments and	
	options. It's also extremely important to that the department is	
	taking the opportunity to ensure that the borrowers are fully	
	informed of their rights and options when completing the	
	forms. Things to consider for the Administration borrowers or	
	students some may be dealing with unemployment, disability,	
	or economic hardships being that having a structure plan to	

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	help the students. The revised IDR Plan Request form for FFEL	
	borrowers has the potential to significantly enhance the	
	outcome and streamline loan servicing trying to make sure	
	that students are insured within the process. There are some	
	cases were the IDR options fail to provide true financial relief to	
	financially distressed borrowers. Which leads to the cause of	
	the down fall economically for the students and families who	
	continue to struggle with no help. We need to fix and correct	
	the department so that families and parents wont have to	
	worry that there kid isn't receiving the proper aid being given.	
	The department's and boards of education have rules and	
	steps they must follow when going through a matter as in	
	important as the financial aspect. These direct loans and	
	grants even a refund check to help the student who might be going through a hardship many wouldn't understand. All the	
	struggles and loops the lower class economic class pf families	
	cant always afford to give there kid or the student the best	
	education thats when the departments are supposed to help	
	and work with the families so that the student can receive	
	proper education and living in order to succeed.	
ED-2025-	The Department is updating the IDR Request Form to comply	Thank you for your
SCC-0015-	with the court injunction issued on February 18, 2025, which	comments. The interest
0014	includes updates to remove the SAVE plan option, reverting the	capitalization that occurs
Anonymou	definition of family size to the pre-July 1, 2024, definition, and	when a borrower leave the
S	removing references to interest subsidy during repayment.	Income-Based Repayment
		(IBR) plan is required by
	The implications of these updates are significant, particularly	law and would require a
	for borrowers who transitioned from the old Income-Based	change in the statute
	Repayment (IBR) plan to the now-defunct SAVE plan due to its	which is outside the
	perceived benefits. These borrowers experienced capitalized	abilities of the Department.
	unpaid interest accrued under the old IBR plan, which was	
	added to the principal balance of their existing SAVE loans.	No change.

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	This capitalization increases the total amount owed, leading to higher monthly payments and extended loan terms when they are compelled to switch to another plan, which may offer less favorable terms.	
	When creating new applications and processes to force existing borrowers out of SAVE, they should be designed to mitigate the financial burden on borrowers. Borrowers should not be penalized with increased loan amounts due to capitalized interest on plans that are no longer available. If SAVE is not a valid plan, then any capitalized interest between these plans should be reversed as the application should never have been allowed and processed. It is crucial to consider reversing these capitalized amounts to ensure fairness and decrease risks exacerbating the financial strain on individuals who have already made efforts to manage their debt.	
	For the inevitable analytics that suggest it will be of limited to no burden, there are those of us with significant loan amounts who have diligently been paying toward our loans to no avail. When you have a mortgage-worthy amount of student loan debt, pay off six figures worth of loans, and continue to have six figures worth of loans, it is easy to feel hopeless.	
	To illustrate the gravity of the situation, I would like to share my experience. During the COVD-19 payment pause, I paid off four of my six remaining loans under old-IBR terms, amounting to over six figures. When the SAVE plan was introduced, I applied for my two remaining loans to be serviced under these new terms, which resulted in \approx \$43,000 of capitalized interest being added to my principal balance as required by statute. This was not an easy decision, but, after significant analysis of	

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	various repayment options and my situation, it was a viable path to eventually clearing my debt. I firmly believed that it was worth it to finally see a light toward the end of that tunnel.	
	Alas, apparently that light was coming from a train intended to run me over. With the SAVE plan now being removed, I am faced with the "privilege" of paying an additional \approx \$43,000 in capitalized interest for a repayment plan that will no longer exist as I am forced to transition to yet a different plan. My current balance stands at \approx \$202,000 post-capitalization, despite having paid off more than this amount over the last 15+ years.	
	I am committed to repaying what I owe, but the continuous changes and added burdens make it increasingly difficult to see a path to financial freedom. It is imperative that the Department addresses these issues fairly and considers the real-life impact on borrowers. A thoughtful approach to reversing capitalized interest and ensuring a smooth transition to new (unwanted and undesirable) plans, or even back to the original plans, will be essential in maintaining borrower trust and compliance. Fairly address these concerns, and I will happily and promptly pay off my remaining balance. Until then, I no longer possess any sense of urgency due to the continuous challenges and frustrations imposed by those who seem disconnected from the realities faced by their constituents who are being brow beaten over this entire debacle.	
ED-2025- SCC-0015-	Payments under IDR should be based on household, rather than individual income for the same reason Pell eligibility, and	Thank you for your comment. The
0015	nearly every other public assistance program, is based on	determination of the
Anonymou	household income, regardless of how someone files their taxes.	monthly payment amount

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S	Doing otherwise means borrowers are able to minimize their payment obligation through their tax filing status, while at the same time reducing their available income with dependents NOT listed on their tax return. While a loan is ultimately the individual's responsibility, that does not mean that a publicly financed repayment assistance program, which can reduce someone's payment to as low as \$0 (a 100 percent payment subsidy) should only look at the individual.	is calculated in accordance with applicable statutes and regulations and is not within the abilities of the Department to change through this form update. No change.
	If a borrower is allowed to use only their personal income, then they shouldn't also be allowed to include household members not listed on their tax return. That is often both illogical (e.g. how can someone with near poverty level wages support several dependents on their own?) and amounts to having your cake and eating it too.	
ED-2025- SCC-0015- 0016 Anonymou s	This change is really frustrating and feels like a setback for a lot of us. People are confused, and it doesn't feel like we're getting the support or clarity we need.	Thank you for your comment.
ED-2025- SCC-0015- 0017 NASFAA	<pdf summary=""> Access to robust, easily accessible IDR plans is therefore crucial for individual borrower success and preventing default, as well as for the overall health of the student loan portfolio by keeping borrowers in repayment Time-based forgiveness is a crucial element of any IDR plan as it saves borrowers from a lifetime of debt NASFAA has concerns about the length of time that elapsed between the February 18, 2025, court decision enjoining the Final Rule provisions and the Department's March 21, 2025, request for emergency clearance of the revised form and IDR application being made available online again As the SAVE plan litigation continues,</pdf>	Thank you for your comments. This information collection is intended for use to apply for an Income Driven Plan as is available at the time the user is completing the form. Including information related to past options or describing changes from a previous version on the form itself would likely

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	we urge the Department to proactively anticipate any future	increase confusion
	changes to the IDR Request Form to limit the time the form	particularly for borrowers
	needs to be offline as changes are made The Department	initially selecting an IDR
	must prioritize clarity and plain language to improve the IDR	plan. Information related to
	form. The form should intuitively guide borrowers through	changes to the IDR plans
	currently available plans (IBR, PAYE, ICR) and their specific	related to the injunction is
	rules under the present legal constraints, avoiding jargon. It's	available on our website
	crucial that the form be labeled as a temporary version due to	for returning borrowers.
	the court injunction, that all communications to borrowers	
	clearly explain why options like SAVE are unavailable, and that	Regarding the suggestion
	the interim form is subject to change.	to reintroduce the "lowest
	Demonstrate CAVE when an emission from homeowners to each other	payment" option. Due to
	Removed: SAVE plan as an option for borrowers to select.	the elimination of the SAVE
	Comment: This is the most impactful change for borrowers,	Plan, the IBR and PAYE
	especially those unaware of current litigation and expecting to enroll or benefit from SAVE's provisions. While the form clearly	plans use the same formula for those
	states which plans are available (IBR, PAYE, ICR), it should	borrowers that are eligible
	include accompanying guidance that explains why SAVE is not	so there is no clear
	currently an option and what this means for past/current SAVE	determination of what
	enrollees.	constitutes the plan with
		the lowest payment for
	Removed: "(Recommended) I want the income-driven	many borrowers. The form
	repayment plan with the lowest monthly payment."	encourages borrowers to
	Comment: The option for borrowers to select "the income-	complete the form online
	driven repayment plan with the lowest monthly payment"	and use the loan simulator
	served as a crucial, simple entry point, particularly for those	which shows the borrower
	prioritizing immediate relief. While we acknowledge this choice	the plans available to them
	might occasionally lead borrowers to plans with longer	and the payment amount
	repayment terms or different forgiveness outcomes, its	and the terms of the plans
	removal now forces borrowers to navigate the complex	providing them with the
	specifics of IBR, PAYE, and ICR. We recommend reinstating this	information necessary to
	language. To mitigate concerns about borrowers not	make a selection.

 "lowest overall cost" or "fastest forgiveness," thereby encouraging a comprehensive review of all plan details while still providing an accessible starting point for those most in need of immediate affordability. Removed: "However, you can consolidate your loans at StudentAid.gov/manage-loans/consolidation to access more beneficial income-driven repayment plans." Comment: FFEL borrowers still need to know their options for access to other IDR plans if they choose consolidation. This guidance should be restored on the form. Added: "If you have Direct Consolidation Loans that repaid Parent PLUS loans, they are only eligible for ICR." Comment: This addition is helpful for clarity regarding Parent PLUS loan eligibility post-consolidation. Changed: Reverting the definition of "family size" back to the definition used before July 1, 2024, for all IDR plans. Comment: NASFAA understands this reversion to the pre-July 1, 2024, definition of "family size" is a consequence of the Department's interpretation of the court injunction. However, we wish to note our support for the updated definition that was in effect from July 1, 2024. That definition of a borrower's actual household and financial dependents, which could lead to more 	Comment		Response
rule-	understanding the full implications, the f the "lowest payment" option may not alw "lowest overall cost" or "fastest forgiven encouraging a comprehensive review of still providing an accessible starting poin need of immediate affordability. Removed: "However, you can consolidate StudentAid.gov/manage-loans/consolidate beneficial income-driven repayment plan Comment: FFEL borrowers still need to k access to other IDR plans if they choose guidance should be restored on the form Added: "If you have Direct Consolidation Parent PLUS loans, they are only eligible Comment: This addition is helpful for cla PLUS loan eligibility post-consolidation. Changed: Reverting the definition of "far definition used before July 1, 2024, for al Comment: NASFAA understands this reve 2024, definition of "family size" is a cons Department's interpretation of the court we wish to note our support for the update in effect from July 1, 2024. That definition more accurate and inclusive reflection of household and financial dependents, white	ways equate to the ess," thereby all plan details while t for those most in e your loans at tion to access more as." now their options for consolidation. This Loans that repaid for ICR." rity regarding Parent nily size" back to the I IDR plans. ersion to the pre-July 1, equence of the injunction. However, ited definition that was n often provided a f a borrower's actual ich could lead to more	Regarding the suggestion to restore language about consolidation for FFEL borrowers. Due to the elimination of the SAVE Plan, the borrower would only gain access to the ICR Plan (since they would not be a new borrower for PAYE or IBR) which is, generally, not a more beneficial plan than IBR as an existing borrower. While a FFEL borrower may benefit from eligibility for PSLF, instruction to consolidate loans into the Direct Loan Program is provided on the PSLF form. Thank you for your comments on the definition of "family size". As a result of the injunction future changes to this definition would only be permissible by a change in the statute or through the regulatory rule-making process. No changes

Comment	Response
The National Consumer Law Center, on behalf of our low-	The Department thanks
income clients, submits these comments in response to the	you for these comments,
U.S. Department of Education's request for comments on the	but on Feb. 18, 2025, a
new Income-Driven Repayment (IDR) plan request form. As	federal court issued a new
detailed below, we recommend changes to restore the option	injunction preventing the
for borrowers to request to be placed in the plan with the	U.S. Department of
	Education (ED) from
	implementing the Saving
	on a Valuable Education
	(SAVE) Plan and parts of
	other income-driven
	repayment (IDR) plans
• •	which affect how borrowers
•	apply for the IDR plans
	including placing the
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	borrowers in the lowest
	monthly payment option
	and placing borrowers on a
	different plan if they
I Contraction of the second	applied for a plan they
	don't qualify for.
•	Comments unrelated to
	this form cannot be
	considered during this
	information collection.
	information conection.
	No changes.
	No changes.
	The National Consumer Law Center, on behalf of our low- income clients, submits these comments in response to the U.S. Department of Education's request for comments on the new Income-Driven Repayment (IDR) plan request form. As detailed below, we recommend changes to restore the option

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	payment for which they qualify. For over a decade, for good	
	reason, the Department has included some version of the	
	following option on IDR request forms: "(Recommended) I want	
	the income-driven repayment plan with the lowest monthly	
	payment." We strongly recommend that the Department	
	restore the option for borrowers to request to be placed in the	
	IDR plan that they qualify for that has the lowest monthly	
	payment. This option is important to borrowers who will	
	otherwise struggle to correctly identify which IDR plan(s) they	
	are eligible for, as well as which offers the most affordable	
	payments. Removing this option will create more friction and	
	"analysis paralysis" in the application process, requiring	
	borrowers to spend more time completing the request form	
	and potentially putting off or not applying at all. Even more	
	problematically, it will result in more borrowers who cannot	
	afford standard payments having their IDR applications denied	
	simply because they did not correctly identify which of the	
	three available IDR plans they are eligible for. Such denials,	
	which may occur after a borrower has already waited months	
	for their request to be processed, may at best delay borrowers'	
	efforts to begin making payments (if they reapply successfully) and at worst cause borrowers to believe they are not eligible	
	for an affordable payment plan at all, thereby increasing their	
	likelihood of default. Each of the IDR plans has different,	
	complex eligibility requirements that even servicer call agents	
	struggle to understand or explain and that FSA's own	
	application appears to currently be getting wrong. Borrowers	
	then cannot reasonably be expected to understand and	
	correctly navigate their IDR eligibility. Further, even aside from	
	eligibility, borrowers struggle to choose among the plans or to	
	figure out which will be most affordable for them. This is	
	because the plans calculate monthly payments in different and	

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	often complex ways that make it hard for borrowers to	
	compare their options. For example, ICR calculates payments	
	using the interaction of two separate formulas, one of which	
	relies on changing information published annually outside of	
	the IDR request form. While the online application makes it	
	easier for borrowers to identify which plans they are eligible for	
	and which plan offers the lowest monthly payment (at least	
	when it is operating correctly, which it is currently not — see	
	Recommendation 4a below), the paper/PDF application does	
	not. And importantly, the paper/PDF application is more likely	
	to be used by the same borrowers who are also unable to	
	access or confidently navigate FSA's other online tools,	
	including the Loan Simulator, that could help them figure out	
	which plans they are eligible for and which would offer the	
	most affordable payments. This includes older borrowers,	
	borrowers with disabilities, borrowers who are incarcerated,	
	borrowers who have experienced identity theft, borrowers who	
	simply have difficulty setting up or restoring studentaid.gov	
	accounts, and other borrowers with limited access to or	
	comfort with online portals. These groups of borrowers already have some of the highest rates of delinguency and default;	
	making it harder for them to successfully enroll in IDR using	
	the paper application form threatens to make a bad situation	
	worse. Finally, we recognize that the Department may have	
	removed this option in response to the current preliminary	
	injunction blocking the SAVE plan, perhaps due to concern that	
	it would be unclear whether borrowers who select this option	
	should be enrolled in the SAVE plan (and placed in the SAVE	
	forbearance) or in whichever of IBR, PAYE, or ICR offers the	
	lowest payment. A better approach is to restore the question	
	and to simply make clear that the borrower will only be placed	
	in one of the plans for which the Department is currently	

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	enrolling borrowers, and the Department is not currently	
	enrolling borrowers in SAVE.	
	2. Restore language assuring borrowers that if they request	
	a plan that they are not eligible for, they will be placed in	
	the IDR plan that they do qualify for with the lowest	
	monthly payment.	
	For the same reasons detailed above, we strongly urge the	
	Department to restore the language from prior IDR request	
	forms assuring borrowers that if they do not qualify for the IDR	
	plan they have requested, they will be placed in the IDR plan that they do qualify for that has the lowest monthly payment.	
	Alternatively, the Department could bring back language	
	setting out a specific waterfall approach that it will use to	
	enroll borrowers in an IDR plan if they choose a plan for which	
	they are not eligible (e.g., the Department could reasonably	
	state either that it will try to place such borrowers in PAYE,	
	then IBR, then ICR). Such language assures that borrowers who	
	want to access an IDR plan but guite reasonably	
	misunderstand the complex eligibility criteria for each plan,	
	and thus choose the wrong one, will still be enrolled in an IDR	
	plan. The new language that the Department has inserted to	
	replace this old assurance instead provides for the opposite: "If	
	I do not qualify for the plan or plans I requested my loan	
	holder will reject my application." As explained above,	
	rejecting these IDR requests entirely even when a borrower is	
	eligible for another IDR plan, often when a borrower has	
	already waited months for their application to be processed,	
	will result in borrowers who cannot afford standard payments	
	at best experiencing delays and more friction in getting into a	
	plan for which they can successfully make payments (if they reapply successfully) and at worst cause borrowers to believe	
	they are not eligible for an affordable payment plan at all,	

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	thereby increasing their likelihood of default.	
	3. Improve usability of the form in accordance with plain	
	language guidelines.	
	We recommend that the Department work with plain language	
	experts to improve the IDR request form and engage in user-	
	testing to ensure that the public will be able to easily	
	understand and use it. Under the Plain Writing Act of 2010, the	
	Department of Education is required to write "clear	
	Government communication that the public can understand	
	and use."1 This requirement applies to any communication	
	that is necessary for obtaining any federal government benefit or service; provides information about any federal government	
	benefit or service; or explains to the public how to comply with	
	a requirement that the federal government administers or	
	enforces. Unfortunately, the IDR form falls short of being clear	
	and easy-to-use by the public. The first rule of the Federal Plain	
	Language Guidelines is "Think about your audience."2 In the	
	past, the Department has seemingly assumed that the	
	audience for these types of forms is entirely college-educated	
	individuals. However, the population that may submit an IDR	
	form is much more varied, and student loan borrowers without	
	a college degree are among the most at risk of default if they	
	do not successfully enroll in IDR. The population of borrowers	
	likely to use the IDR request form includes individuals without	
	a GED or high school diploma who borrowed federal aid,3	
	individuals who began but did not complete a postsecondary	
	education program, people who attended a certificate trade	
	program, and Parent PLUS borrowers who may not have	
	attended college at all. Scrutinizing the form with the federal	
	government's plain language guidelines4 would assist all	
	applicants and help ensure the borrowers otherwise most at	
	risk of default can access affordable payments. As the	

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	enrolling in PAYE.	
	b. Fix error requiring uploading of spousal income information (including duplicate information) where not required.	
	Student loan attorneys report that the online application now seems to require uploading of spousal income information regardless of whether the IDR plan the borrower has requested or the tax filing status of the borrower makes submission of spousal income information necessary. Further, some report that borrowers who file their taxes as married filing jointly appear to be required by the online application to upload their joint tax return twice – once for the borrower, and once for their spouse. This creates unnecessary and inefficient burdens on borrowers and their spouses. Further, the extraneous income information may then result in payment calculation errors. For these reasons, the Department should promptly investigate and correct this issue.	
	 c. Restore data-matching with Treasury to improve the efficiency, ease, and accuracy of IDR enrollment and recertification. We urge the Department to promptly restore and implement data-matching systems with Treasury to simplify and streamline the process of enrolling in and recertifying income in IDR. First, we encourage the Department to fully implement the FUTURE Act, including its automatic enrollment and recertification provisions premised on data-matching with Treasury, as soon as possible. Doing so will both dramatically reduce paperwork burdens on borrowers and should increase successful repayment and reduce default by addressing the 	

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	widely acknowledged problem of borrowers missing their recertification paperwork deadlines and experiencing unaffordable payment jumps. Second, even as it works on full	
	implementation of the FUTURE Act, we encourage the Department to restore the prior ability to import tax returns into the online IDR application using a one-time match. Doing so simplifies and speeds up the IDR application process and reduces risk of errors for all borrowers. Additionally, it is	
	particularly valuable to struggling borrowers who seek help with their student loans at clinics or in other settings where they may not otherwise have access to their tax returns. Conclusion Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed IDR plan request form. We would welcome the	
	opportunity to meet with the Department to discuss ways to make the IDR application process more accessible and less burdensome to borrowers. Please contact Abby Shafroth (ashafroth@nclc.org) with questions or if you would like to	
	discuss further. Sincerely, Abby Shafroth Co-Director of Advocacy and Director of Student Loan Borrower Assistance project National Consumer Law Center	
ED-2025- SCC-0015- 0019 CPAC Foundatio	Below are comments of the American Conservative Union Foundation's (d/b/a. Conservative Political Action Coalition Foundation) (hereinafter "CPAC Foundation") Center for Regulatory Freedom (hereinafter "CRF") on the Department of Education's (ED) information collection request entitled	Thank you for your comments and support, but this form is for borrowers to apply for an Income-Driven Repayment
n Center for Regulatory Freedom	"Agency Information Collection Activities; Comment Request; Income Driven Repayment Plan Request for the William D. Ford Federal Direct Loans and Federal Family Education Loan Programs," Docket Number ED-2025-SCC-0015, published in the Federal Register on April 7, 2025.	Plan and is not related to any proposed changes to statute. We would encourage you to reach out to your representatives in the US Congress
	CRF is a project of the CPAC Foundation, a non-profit, non-	regarding changes to

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	partisan $501(c)(3)$ research and education foundation. Our	federal law.
	mission is to inject a common-sense perspective into the	
	regulatory process, to ensure that the risks and costs of	No changes.
	regulations are fully based on sound scientific and economic	
	evidence, and to ensure that the voices, interests, and	
	freedoms of Americans, and especially of small businesses, are	
	fully represented in the regulatory process and debates.	
	Finally, we work to ensure that regulatory proposals address real problems, that the proposals serve to ameliorate those	
	problems, and, perhaps most importantly, that those proposals	
	do not, in fact, make public policy problems worse.	
	CRF is grateful for the opportunity to comment on ED's revised	
	collection of information concerning revisions to the Saving on	
	a Valuable Education (SAVE) and Income-Driven Repayment	
	(IDR) plans. CRF supports the current administration's	
	proposed changes to IDR plan requests, as such changes are	
	necessary to comply with regulations at 34 C.F.R. § 685.209	
	and the Direct Loan Program under Section 493C of the Higher	
	Education Act of 1965 (HEA). Additionally, ED's emergency	
	revisions are crucial to combatting the burgeoning economic	
	collapse brought on by decades of over lending and the federal	
	government's exorbitant subsidization of college degrees.	
	CRF approves of regulatory revisions that aim to curb federal	
	spending, particularly as that spending relates to ED's	
	ownership and management of Direct Loans for higher	
	education. CRF urges ED to review future regulations in	
	conjunction with the HEA, specifically the process by which the	
	federal government authorizes and limits federal student loan	
	programs, as well as student loan debt forgiveness. CRF also	
	recommends that ED reexamine its framework for issuing relief	

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	for federal student loans, as the current repayment model mirrors the reckless lending practices that led to the 2008 housing crisis.	
	Introduction Upon further review of ED's revised information collection, CRF finds that SAVE and the supporting IDR plan revisions should be implemented to help streamline the federal student loan process. CRF has determined that the proposed revisions made to the SAVE and IDR plans, if enacted, will simplify the application for borrowers to apply for loans and extend the period for which federal loans can be forgiven from 10 or 20-25 years to 30 years. The extended pay period will make it easier for lending institutions to determine the number of borrowers that are eligible for federal student loan funding and allows them sufficient time to verify important eligibility information, such as annual income and household size.	
	In 1965, Congress passed the HEA to improve student services and the administration of academic support. Section 455(d) of the HEA authorizes income-contingent repayment (ICR) plans for borrowers who obtain student loans through the Direct Loan Program, which originated under the Clinton administration in the 1990s.1 Collectively, these two plans are referred to as IDR plans. Under current regulations, there are four types of IDR plans available for students pursuing higher education. These include the Revised Pay As You Earn (REPAYE), Income-Based Repayment (IBR), Pay As You Earn (PAYE), and Income- Contingent Repayment (ICR) plans, all of which base your monthly payments on your income and family size, and offer loan forgiveness after 20 or 25 years of qualifying payments, depending on the specific plan.	

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	In 2021, the Secretary of Education (Secretary) initiated a rulemaking process to create a new IDR plan to address the multitude of borrowers struggling to afford their payments and the propensity of student loan borrowers to default on their loans or end up financially delinquent. This rulemaking process culminated in the promulgation of a final rule on July 10, 2023, wherein the Biden Administration formally replaced the REPAYE plan with the SAVE plan.2 The SAVE plan allowed borrowers earning less than \$32.8k as an individual, or less than \$67.5k as a family of four, to pay \$0 in monthly payments on their loans, effectively authorizing the federal government to assume the cost of all interest payments under the plan.3 The replacement of REPAYE with SAVE widely expanded the pool of potential student loan borrowers by instituting automatic enrollments for borrowers who are more than two months behind on payments into the IDR plan and allowing "smaller" loan balances to be completely forgiven after only 10 years of payments, as opposed to the REPAYE plan's standard 20 to 25 year requirement regardless of balance.	
	ED's plan for student loan forgiveness faced a plethora of legal hurdles, most recently on February 18, 2025, wherein the United States 8th Circuit Court of Appeals issued a preliminary injunction blocking the full implementation of the SAVE plan, including its provisions guaranteeing full debt forgiveness.5 The court extended the injunction to also halt loan forgiveness under the PAYE and ICR plans and further directed the lower court to broaden the injunction to cover the entire SAVE rule and related rules.6 As a result, ED suspended access to all IDR plans and froze the online application process for the programs. On March 26, 2025, the online IDR application	

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	became available again, allowing borrowers to once again apply for IDR plans, though access to the SAVE plan remains blocked.	
	Proposed Revisions to IDR Plans	
	The proposed revisions will significantly reduce the number of options of borrowers under IDR plans, allowing only borrowers with loans dispersed before July 1, 2026, to keep their current repayment plan, except for those under the ICR plan. The new options will allow borrowers to choose between a standard repayment plan with fixed monthly payments for 10-30 years and a new income-based repayment plan, "Repayment Assistance Plan (RAP)."8 The latter offers a fixed monthly payment with loan terms ranging from 10 to 25 years, depending on the amount borrowed. The new plan would also instill borrowing caps, such that undergraduate borrowers would be limited to borrowing under the \$50k limit, graduate borrowers would be limited to borrowing under \$100k, and professional borrowers would be limited to \$150k.9 The proposed revisions would also eliminate subsidized loans, such as the grad PLUS loan program, thereby encouraging greater fiscal responsibility in federal lending and helping to limit taxpayer exposure to the costs of graduate and professional education.	
	While previous plans forgave outstanding loans over a period of 20 to 25 years, the proposed plan would extend the qualifying loan forgiveness plans to 360 payments, or a period of 30 years. For those borrowers who made payments before the plan's new revisions, their payment would count towards their outstanding time required to pay off their loans. It is	

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	was projected to cost the federal government upwards of \$400 billion,10 and ED's proposed revisions, if implemented, would halt spending and prevent Americans from incurring the total cost of previous administrations' failed student loan policies.	
	Lessons From the 2008 Housing Crisis Government policies in the early and mid-2000s drastically expanded the availability of mortgage credit, as federal mandates required Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac to increase their purchases of mortgages serving low- and moderate- income borrowers, leading these agencies to buy \$434 billion in securities backed by subprime loans between 2004 and 2006.11 By offering loans to increasingly high-risk borrowers, often with little income verification and low initial interest rates, lenders fueled a surge in home purchases that contributed to rapidly rising housing prices and widespread defaults, ultimately resulting in the collapse of the housing market in 2008.	
	Though the housing crisis was characterized by over lending and a failure to ensure properties purchased would generate a return on investment, the current higher education crisis is likely to follow a similar economic trajectory. As with the housing market, easy access to credit has enabled institutions to raise tuition and encouraged students to accrue debt that many may never be able to repay, raising the risk of widespread defaults and significant financial consequences for both individuals and taxpayers. ED's proposed revisions are a sharp course correction to the federal government's unsustainable accrual of student loan debt, particularly the implementation of borrowing caps and aggregate limits for student borrowing.	

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	Unlike real estate, degrees do not guarantee a return on investment, and the disconnect between the cost of education and post-graduation outcomes places both individuals and taxpayers at risk. Many students take on significant debt for degrees that may not lead to sufficient earnings to cover their loan obligations, creating a cycle of financial hardship and increasing the likelihood of default. This not only undermines the financial stability of borrowers but also exposes taxpayers to the costs of loan forgiveness and government-backed losses. By restricting access to uncapped federal loans, especially for programs with uncertain economic value, these reforms help ensure that federal funds are directed toward borrowers who are more likely to fulfill their repayment obligations, reducing the risk of another taxpayer-funded bailout.	
	Conclusion Unchecked federal lending in higher education risks repeating the mistakes of the housing crisis, where easy credit led to unsustainable debt burdens and widespread defaults. Without meaningful limits, student loan programs can incentivize both over-borrowing by students and unchecked tuition increases by institutions, further distorting the higher education market. ED's recent revisions to its information collection on IDR plans represent a proactive step to address these risks by introducing borrowing caps and aggregate limits that better align loan accessibility with realistic repayment prospects. These changes not only protect borrowers from long-term financial distress but also safeguard taxpayers from the escalating costs associated with loan forgiveness and federal guarantees. CRF supports ED's proposed revisions concerning	

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the collection of information relating to IDR plans, as well as broader policies aiming to limit lending and loan accessibility. CRF urges ED to continue to review and revise existing regulations governing student loan forgiveness to ensure that all current plans appropriately restrict lending practices in a manner consistent with minimizing systemic financial risk. I recommend taxing corporations at 90% and using the revenue to first pay for any American kid who wants to go to college or trade school for a 4 year degree. It is the corporations who have benefited from American kids being educated they should pay for it.	While we thank you for your comment, it is not related to the Income- Driven Repayment information collection.
This collection should be reviewed for changes based upon the significant impact of cost associated and for the legal implications of the contract terms. With the regulatory process and the verification of the data being conducted in accordance with the law, there are too many questions about how the contract would work effectively.	No changes. Thank you for your comment, but this information collection is for the Income-Driven Repayment form and its content. It is not related to budgetary impact. No changes.
-	the collection of information relating to IDR plans, as well as broader policies aiming to limit lending and loan accessibility. CRF urges ED to continue to review and revise existing regulations governing student loan forgiveness to ensure that all current plans appropriately restrict lending practices in a manner consistent with minimizing systemic financial risk. I recommend taxing corporations at 90% and using the revenue to first pay for any American kid who wants to go to college or trade school for a 4 year degree. It is the corporations who have benefited from American kids being educated they should pay for it. This collection should be reviewed for changes based upon the significant impact of cost associated and for the legal implications of the contract terms. With the regulatory process and the verification of the data being conducted in accordance with the law, there are too many questions about how the