
Attn: Jim Bradshaw - here's the specific request email you asked me to send you; Cc as indicated

Gordon Watts <gww1210@gmail.com>

Thu, Mar 7, 2019 at 3:45 AM

To: Jim.Bradshaw@ed.gov, "DeVos, Betsy" <Betsy.DeVos@ed.gov>, Edgar.Mayes@ed.gov, "Tracy.Catoe"

<Tracy.Catoe@ed.gov>, Press@ed.gov, Al Betancourt <Alberto.Betancourt@ed.gov>, Lynn.Mahaffie@ed.gov, AnnMarie.Weisman@ed.gov, Linda.Shewack@ed.gov, "Silver, Rochelle" <Rochelle.Silver@ed.gov>, "Jameson, Richard" <Richard.Jameson@ed.gov>, "Sanders, P.J." <Phyllis.Jean.Sanders@ed.gov>

Cc: Alan Collinge <AlanMCollinge@gmail.com>, alan_collinge <Alan_Collinge@msn.com>, Alan Collinge <Justice@studentloanjustice.org>, studentloanjustice <StudentLoanJustice@yahoo.com>, "Jones, Sharon" <Sharon.Jones@ed.gov>, info@rossspano.com, jamie.robinette@mail.house.gov, scott.bedrosian@mail.house.gov, gus.ashton@mail.house.gov, logan.wright@mail.house.gov, grace.wright@mail.house.gov, hunter.frost@mail.house.gov, tyler.dever@mail.house.gov, "Gww1210@aol.com" <gww1210@aol.com>, Gordon Watts <gww1210@gmail.com>

Bcc: "Gww12102002@yahoo.com" <gww12102002@yahoo.com>, Gordon Watts <gordonwaynewatts@hotmail.com>, Gordon Watts <gordonwaynewatts@aol.com>

SUBJECT: "Attn: Jim Bradshaw - here's the specific request email you asked me to send you; Cc as indicated"**To: Jim Bradshaw, Press Officer, U.S. Dept. of Ed., 202.401.2310, Jim.Bradshaw@ed.gov****Cc:** Hon. Ross Spano, Member of Congress (R-FL-15th), 224 Cannon HOB, Washington, DC 20515, Phone: (202) 225-1252, 170 Fitzgerald Rd. Suite 1, Lakeland, FL 33813, Phone: (863) 644-8215**Cc:** *Alan M. Collinge of Student Loan Justice ; and, File copies for myself ;* **NO OTHER cc recipients – just these here. (E.g., a more-or-less private email response)****Cc:** Hon. Betsy DeVos, Secretary of Education, U.S. Dept. of Ed [1-800-USA-LEARN (1-800-872-5327)] 400 Maryland Ave. SW, Washington, DC 20202 ; Edgar Mayes Director, Correspondence and Communications Control (Office of the Secretary) (202) 401-2981 ; Tracy Catoe, Dep. Dir. of Correspondence, 202.205.4169, 202.401.1361, 202.401.3000, 616.643.4700 ; Press Office, 202.401.1576, Press Officer Alberto 'Al' Betancourt, 202.453.5753 ; Rochelle Silver, Program Support Assistant, Policy Development, Analysis and Accreditation, Office of Postsecondary Education, U.S. Dept. of Ed., 202-453-7515 ; Cc's from Ms. Silver's reply: "Silver, Rochelle", "Jameson, Richard", "Sanders, P.J.", "Jones, Sharon" ; Lynn B. Mahaffie, Dep. Asst. Sec. For Policy, Planning, & Innovation (202-502-7903, Fax 202-502-7675) author credited in reply] ; AnnMarie Weisman, U.S. Dept. of Ed, Training Officer (202-453-6712; 215-656-6456) Immediate supervisor of actual author, Linda Shewack ; Linda Shewack, U.S. Dept. of Ed., Adjunct, Administrative Actions and Appeals at U.S. Department of Education and NASSFA (National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators) Task Force on Loan Servicing Issues (202-453-5961) [Ms. Shewack is the actual author of reply, according to a phone conversation with Rochelle Silver]**Dear Jim Bradshaw:**

Thank you for speaking to me by phone, yesterday, Wed.07 March 2019. I am in receipt of the reply to my recent press inquiry about the department's stance on 2 key issues, namely the recent Bankruptcy Equality Bill, H.R.770, a partial cure to the higher ed debt bubble (which is about to burst), and my proposed bill (a preventative strike, to stop throwing tax-dollar fuel on the fire, via subsidies to unnecessary loan). When we spoke, you recall I told you of my surprise and anger at the hollow and vacuous reply I received, and you asked me what I proposed as a solution. You must be kin to Mr. Spock on Star Trek, because that was the appropriate and "logical" reply, since the complainer (myself) bears the burden of a proposed solution (which you suggested).

Before I share my proposed solution, let me be frank, and candidly tell you I was hot angry to no end at what I feel

was a disrespectful slight by those who replied, and considering that I didn't get a reply the last time, 2 years ago, when I sought press inquiry, 2 years ago, after this long wait, I was very, very tempted to unload an exceedingly embarrassing Editorial, Column, OpEd, or another guest column, with social media amplification, such as I did (see attachments) on 2 prior occasions. (The online PDF's of both columns: [TheLedger_Thr04Aug2016_Online-PDF-FairUse-cache-WATTS-GuestColumn.pdf](#) and [TheLedger_Fri16Nov2018_Online-PDF-FairUse-cache-WATTS-GuestColumn.pdf](#) – and the scanned/image “print” version to show they both also published in print format: [WATTS_ColumnWithNotes_2016_PrintVersion_PDF.pdf](#) and [WATTS_Column_2018_PrintVersion_PDF.pdf](#))

I feel absolutely horrible that I embarrassed my good friend, former Congressman Dennis A. Ross (and that may have contributed to his retirement!). I feel terrible about this, and regret that we all didn't ****all**** try harder to avoid such public embarrassment & shame. But, given the fact that I document that we are headed for a crash of the dollar, (partly) due to his very, very unwise fiscal legislation, I really feel I had no choice.

Anyhow, getting back to the solution you seek, here is where we stand: I asked for the department's official stance on these 2 policy proposals, and Linda Shewack, writing on behalf of Lynn B. Mahaffie (and under the immediate supervision of AnnMarie Weisman), replied, according to Rochelle Silver, who was kind enough to speak with me at length yesterday and/or the day before. (I rightly forget the time-line. My apologies; I've been busy and under a lot of pressure on the home front.)

PROBLEM: “You dis'sed us press” as our old school friends might say...

Linda's reply was polite, and she very clearly, and accurately, understood and acknowledged my 2 questions. She even did not forget to clarify that the Dept of Ed is quite limited in its authority. (She is correct, and I am understanding of your department's limitations, and feel your pain, here.) There was one little problem however. (Take a look at her reply, in this attachment: [DeptOfEd_Tue05Mar2019_ReplyToWATTS_PDF.pdf](#), ok?...) Do you see the problem, Jim? She flat-out cut and ran, and disrespectfully refused to answer my simple, “yes-or-no” question on my 2 policy proposals. What were you all thinking to push this through, Jim? What were they thinking to accomplish, here, if I may, candidly, ask? Tick off and disrespect all your loyal right-wing Conservative press corps and news media (such as I am, with The Register)? I did not ask the impossible, and I'm fully aware of your department's limitations, but that is not what I asked: Bill Bennett, a former Sec. of Education, while similarly-limited in powers, had no cat tie his tongue to suppress his Free Speech on the “Bully Pulpit” which he was given, here.

PROPOSED SOLUTION: SHORT ANSWER

So, the “short” answer to your question, “What do you seek from the DOE?,” is this: [#1] First, it might help to read up on all the background docs (which I've attached), then [#2] I ask you to officially endorse both my legislative proposals, in a public statement, not only to me, but also as a public press release. You may name me, if you like, as the Conservative blogger who made this inquiry. (In fact, as this is, honestly, a politically-difficult matter, you may NEED to not only name me, but also get Sec. DeVos to weigh in, have a few “experts” by her side, and 2 that might come to mind include Dr. Mark Kantrowitz, the world's foremost expert on collegiate debt, and former Sec. of Ed., Dr. Bill Bennett, who both DeVos and myself famously quoted in our respective releases. [#3] Then, once you “chose sides,” I ask your department (with Dr. Bennett, Dr. Kantrowitz, Sec. DeVos, and, hey, maybe even MYSELF{{**}}, by their side) to officially lobby both federal lawmakers (Senate and House), who, alone, have authority to fix the mess, as well as The President, so that he may “add weight” in the “Bully Pulpit.” (By that, I mean, remember Pres. Obama's advocacy of “ObamaCare?” regardless of our views on the ACA, we can ALL agree that Mr. Obama used the bully pulpit, and advocated zealously (for what we now know was NOT an affordable care act), but he is deserving of credit for his hard work (and we must assume his intentions were good, failure notwithstanding). So, Sec. DeVos can ask The President to become the “Higher Ed” president, and p”push” TrumpCare bills to fix the higher ed bubble, OK? {{**}} And, by the way, I may be a “small-time” blogger, but I did NEARLY WIN the infamous Terri Schiavo case ALL BY MYSELF, losing 4-3 in the Fla. Supreme Court, and doing better even than former Fla. Gov. Jeb Bush, who lost 7-0 before the same panel. That, and my participation in the recent 11th. Circuit FEDERAL APPEALS “gay marriage” case, where I was the ONLY nonlawyer amicus, should remind you that I'm “heavyweight” Conservative press, and your researchers and lawyers can research these claims, if you are a doubting Thomas, ok? When I need to “drop a big name,” to help get attention to issues of

import...I need go no further than my own name: I am 'the' guy who almost won the Schiavo case ALL BY MYSELF! OK, but I'd better not abuse this privilege, so here goes nothing: [1] [In Re: GORDON WAYNE WATTS \(as next friend of THERESA MARIE 'TERRI' SCHIAVO\)](#), No. SC03-2420 (Fla. Feb.23, 2005), denied 4-3 on rehearing. (Watts got 42.7% of his panel)<http://www.floridasupremecourt.org/clerk/dispositions/2005/2/03-2420reh.pdf>

[2] [In Re: JEB BUSH, GOVERNOR OF FLORIDA, ET AL. v. MICHAEL SCHIAVO, GUARDIAN: THERESA SCHIAVO](#), No. SC04-925 (Fla. Oct.21, 2004), denied 7-0 on rehearing. (Bush got 0.0% of his panel before the same court)<http://www.floridasupremecourt.org/clerk/dispositions/2004/10/04-925reh.pdf>

[3] [Schiavo ex rel. Schindler v. Schiavo ex rel. Schiavo, 403 F.3d 1223](#), 2005 WL 648897 (11th Cir. Mar.23, 2005), denied 2-1 on appeal. (Terri Schiavo's own blood family only got 33.3% of their panel on the Federal Appeals level)<http://media.ca11.uscourts.gov/opinions/pub/files/200511556.pdf>

The “Longer” answer would simply require you to read all the attachments included, which give a deeper analysis, and help you be stronger when trying to beat Mr. Obama at the “bully pulpit” advocacy thing, OK? Here, below, is a small list, with comments, to give you guidance, and help encourage you that it's not a hopeless cause, but easily “doable” in small, easy bites:

** [FORBES_WhyCollegePricesKeepRising_COLLINGE.pdf](#) – This is Alan Collinge's recent FORBES column, and maybe the most important thing you'll read (even more-so than my columns), so read this first if you're limited on time. However, the takeaway message from Alan's message (for the DOE) is simple: We found five (5) bad actors who created this mess: (#1) Colleges pushed for raising the taxpayer-backed collegiate limits, so they could jack up tuition ; (#2) Advocates wringing their hands in the absence of defensible proof that things were going awry ; (#3) Lenders playing their part as the selfish, amoral entities they are understood to be supported loan-limit increases which benefited them ; (#4) Congress debating what they are told, and ultimately voting based upon this debate,.. oh, and #5.?.... ((#5)) YOU!... The U.S. Dept of Ed, however, failed to fulfill its “Bully Pulpit” role, and didn't disclose to the group [1-4 above] the true magnitude of the default –or higher ed bubble = DOLLAR CRASHING problems, as one would expect it to. Therefore the YOUR Department is clearly the party whose behavior can ultimately be questioned with strong justification (and a chief reason 'advocates' didn't have clear proof to lobby Congress for my 2 proposed legislative solutions).

** [WATTS_OpEd_ConservativeView_PDF.pdf](#) – My older OpEd, which is similar to my recent guest columns (translation: Just skim them to save time), but it has ONE COOL GRAPH: We don't ask for a “Liberal” Free handout, but the tuition, shown to be a type of tax, is waaaay too high, and also liberal excess taxation. (There are citations, however, that may prove useful.)

** Along those lines of citations, take a look at a meme, which pictures me in a bad mood:

[theCredibleHulkMEME_PDF.pdf](#) (-: This is humour, but also serious, to lighten the mood, but make a salient point. :-)

** Oh, and I'm cc copying all my DOE contacts, and my Congressman's office, Hon. U.S. Rep. Ross Spano (R-FL-15TH), and my good friend, Alan Collinge—but no one else, in my email to you. While I am genuinely angry, I am a Christian, and my boss pulled me aside and reminded me of my allegiances to my higher-ups, in this regard, and convinced me to “limit” the cc line to ONLY you all, and my Congressman's staff and my friend, Alan—BUT NO ONE ELSE, because my purpose in writing you is NOT to be a cyberbully or annoyingly embarrass you all, but discreetly seek reconciliation, and my Congressman's office, while it is fairly up-to-date, may benefit in this email, as I include a few new items. And, both Alan and my Congressman's staff are able to hold me accountable, so that there's a “check/balance,” and motive for me to be both ACCURATE and POLITE to you all at the DOE.

** Along those lines, [BILLS-116hr770ih.pdf](#) and [BILLS-116hr-GWW-proposed-ih.pdf](#) are the 2 bills that need to be advocated, sponsored, and passed into law.

** [DOE-news-coverage-TheRegister_PDF.pdf](#) – Recent news coverage of YOU – e.g., an excerpt from both mirrors on The Register (GordonWatts.com via GoDaddy and gordonWAYNEwatts.com via HostGator – I have a backup, in case there's a “flat” on the Internet Highway)

** [“DeVos-speech_11-27-2018_PDF.pdf”](#) is Sec. DeVos' recent speech. While I was a bit 'chuffed' that she didn't credit me for what I argue appears to be outright copying me, on balance, she did a VERY GREAT JOB of explaining the problems we face in the looming debt bubble (only failing to go the last step, like you asked: She didn't propose a solution). Nonetheless, her speech is a classic, and I encourage you to carefully read Sec. DeVos' 11-27-2018 speech, which I've wisely archived, as have you all. (She didn't violate copyright, and indeed imitation is the highest form of flattery, just to be clear, but she did “copy” ideas, which is not illegal.)

** [“vol126_student_loan_exceptionalism.pdf”](#) HARVARD LAW REVIEW gives a detailed legal, constitutional, practical, and moral case for my 2 legislative proposals, HR770, and the reduction of loan limits on the tax dollar. (Let them us a credit card, where the taxpayer isn't on the hook, and tuition will come down too, as loan availability will decrease. Ideally, we must make use of tax\$\$ for making or guaranteeing collegiate loans illegal, as it is already illegal to use tax\$\$ for abortions, but withdrawal symptoms would result if we went as fast as I'd like.) And, [“TheHistoryOfStudentLoansAndBankruptcyDischarge.pdf”](#) is another good article of this type, written by a lawyer.

** [“StudentDebtClackCollegeGrads_TIME_10-21-2016.pdf”](#) Documentation that collegiate debt hurts Black Americans at 2-3 times the national average. (Not only is this a serious moral concern, let me speak to my right-wing Republican colleagues, and remind you that liberals, minorities, and the poor hate us when we go beyond the pale and demand Bankruptcy rights for ourselves, but not for them. Since we – mostly – don't ask for a “free” college, denial of our reasonable equity request is plainly harmful to our reputation – and plainly immoral.

** [“Sat16Feb2019_College-Loan-BK-Letter-IndieOnline_PDF.pdf”](#) – While I am an accomplished author, and I think this letter is not as good as mine, I include it for two (2) reasons: First off, it cites a scary stat, namely that like fifty (50,000,000) million or so Americans have (or are cosigners to) collegiate loans, and secondly, note that this well-written letter is addressed to the writer's 2 Senators and Congressman, and shows that we are a growing movement, and represent LOTS of hurting Americans.

** [“reply-Tue19Feb2019_to-DOE_PDF.pdf”](#) and [“DEO-acknowledgement-Fri15Feb2019_PDF.pdf”](#) Edgar Mayes, Dir. of Correspondence & Communications, was kind enough to acknowledge my press inquiry, and I replied, thanking him.

** [“DOE-visits-my-online-paper.pdf”](#) Occasionally the staff of my Congressman, Senator, or Dept of Ed, visit my website. (:Thank you all, and thank you web-trackers!:))

** [“BibleVerses-3-religions-VS-CollegiateDebt.pdf”](#) – Many of you there at the DOE have privately told me that you are Christians, like myself, and while I am not trying to “push” any religious belief (we are free to chose, here in America), nonetheless, for those of us “of faith,” we answer to a Higher Authority, and, along those lines, I've compiled passages from the Holy Books of four (4) major religions: 1. Christianity (Protestant), 2. Christianity (Catholic additional Deuterocanonical Apocrypha) 3. Judaism (which shares mutual passages in common with my Christianity), and 4. Islam (Yes, the Koran also addresses these issues.) – Now, I admit that even among “Christians” (and other political & religious groups), not all members “100%-agree” on things, but lookit: King Solomon's son, Rehoboam, started overtaxing the people, and created civil war, and that was only one time those “old” and “forgotten” Bible passages address “modern day” problems, spot on!

That's a lot of reading material, but I trust you all can figure this out without getting confused. Lookit here, I'm not asking your department to do anything impossible... or anything that I HAVEN'T myself done, ok? I went out on a limb, and fired the column heard 'round the world, on several occasions. (Those trying to kill Terri Schiavo CERTAINLY won't forget me, as will my good friend, former Congressman Dennis Ross, and his colleagues, in both the Democratic and Republican parties!) Look, while Sec. DeVos does not make the predication, about the crash of the dollar, she does document the stats upon which I base MY prediction: In her copying my clarion-call warning, in her speech, eleven (11) days after my column published, we both clearly said that almost TEN (10%) PERCENT of total U.S. Debt is collegiate debt... Now, do you not see my concern that the bubble will burst, the dollar will crash, and we WILL become a Third (3rd) World Nation, like all others who were too proud to admit they were drunk/addicted to spending? Did you hear about that guy who got a letter from The President? Yeah, it said: “The President has asked me to reply to your correspondence, and say, you are a 'good' citizen: Here's a MILLION DOLLARS! This fellow went to his best friend, and said, “hey, do you know what happened? I got a letter from the

president with a Million Dollars in case..." – But before he could finish, his buddy replied: Hey, I got letter just like that.. And with a Million Dollars!... What coincidence!... While they were talking, the Ice Cream Man came up, with his singing/music van, and they discovered that HE had also gotten a similar letter – with a Million Dollars cash – from The President... So, they got a cone of ice cream... and... You know what? The ice cream cone cost a HALF MILLION DOLLARS!... (All the economists in the room laugh!) So, you see my point? If you could, could you please answer my press inquiry IN THE AFFIRMATIVE on both points, supporting BOTH BILLS I ATTACH in my email, today, MAKE AN OFFICIAL PRESS RELEASE to that effect, and. Oih, go grab former U.S. Sec of Ed Dr. Bill Bennett, Dr. Mark Kantrowitz (www.Kantrowitz.com / www.FinAid.com/about / etc.), Sec. DeVos, ..and, maybe myself, and "add our voices"?... Do you remember what Sec. DeVos said in her now-legendary classic 11-27-2018 speech, I've included in my email attachments? Yes – No one person or group can do it alone. We either have a United We Stand or Divided We Fall outcome... what is your choice today? .. Chose wisely...

With kind regard, I am, Sincerely,...

Gordon Wayne Watts, Editor-in-Chief, *The Register* (GordonWatts.com / gordonWAYNEwatts.com)

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Gordon Wayne Watts, *editor-in-chief, The Register*

www.GordonWayneWatts.com / www.GordonWatts.com

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BS, The Florida State University, Biological & Chemical Sciences

AS, United Electronics Institute

2046 Pleasant Acre Drive, Plant City, FL 33801-2113

Home: (863) 687-6141 ; Cell: (863) 688-9880

See also: http://Gordon_Watts.Tripod.com/consumer.html

Gww1210@aol.com ; Gww1210@Gmail.com

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Get Truth.

"First, they [Nazis] came for the Jews. I was silent. I was not a Jew. Then they came for the Communists. I was silent. I was not a Communist. Then they came for the trade unionists. I was silent. I was not a trade unionist. Then they came for me. There was no one left to speak for me." (Martin Niemöller, given credit for a quotation in *The Harper Religious and Inspirational Quotation Companion*, ed. Margaret Pepper (New York: Harper & Row, 1989), 429 -as cited on page 44, note 17, of *Religious Cleansing in the American Republic*, by Keith A. Fornier, Copyright 1993, by Liberty, Life, and Family Publications. Some versions have Mr. Niemöller saying: "Then they came for the Catholics, and I didn't speak up, because I was a Protestant"; other versions have him saying that they came for Socialists, Industrialists, schools, the press, and/or the Church; however, it's certain he DID say SOMETHING like this. Actually, they may not have come for the Jews first, as it's more likely they came for the prisoners, mentally handicapped, & other so-called "inferiors" first -as historians tell us -so they could get "practiced up"; however, they did come for them -due to the silence of their neighbors -and due in part to their own silence. So: "Speak up now or forever hold your peace!"-GWW

21 attachments

 Sat16Feb2019_College-Loan-BK-Letter-IndieOnline_PDF.pdf
68K

 BILLS-116hr-GWW-proposed-ih.pdf
97K

-  **DOE-visits-my-online-paper.pdf**
102K
-  **ReplyToDOE_CoverLetter_3-7-2019_WATTS_PDF.pdf**
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-  **theCredibleHulkMEME_PDF.pdf**
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-  **TheHistoryOfStudentLoansAndBankruptcyDischarge.pdf**
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-  **BibleVerses-3-religions-VS-CollegiateDebt.pdf**
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-  **vol126_student_loan_exceptionalism.pdf**
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-  **DOE-news-coverage-TheRegister_PDF.pdf**
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-  **DeVos-speech_11-27-2018_PDF.pdf**
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-  **StudentDebtClackCollegeGrads_TIME_10-21-2016.pdf**
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-  **BILLS-116hr770ih.pdf**
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-  **reply-Tue19Feb2019_to-DOE_PDF.pdf**
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-  **DEO-acknowledgement-Fri15Feb2019_PDF.pdf**
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