



Gordon Watts <gww1210@gmail.com>

Meeting with Congressman Spano

Hilton, Naomi <Naomi.Hilton@mail.house.gov>
To: "gww1210@gmail.com" <gww1210@gmail.com>

Fri, Jul 12, 2019 at 9:59 AM

Good afternoon Mr. Watts,

I hope you are well. Congressman Spano would like to know if you'd like to sit down and meet with him for a few moments during one of his district work periods. He has availability in our Brandon office on July 30th at 1:30pm or August 1st at 9:00am, and he has availability in our Lakeland office on August 19th at 10:30am. Please let me know if any of these dates/times work on your end.

Thank you!

Naomi Hilton

Scheduler

Congressman Ross Spano, FL-15

224 Cannon HOB | Washington, DC 20515

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Polk Perspective: Offer relief for taxes dressed up as 'loans'



By **Gordon Wayne Watts** Guest columnist
Tuesday

Posted Nov 19, 2019 at 12:02 AM



On Nov. 16, 2018, The Ledger published my column decrying skyrocketing tuition and mounting student debt, paid for by our tax dollars.

Apparently, in response to my column, U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos, in her speech 11 days later, repeated my complaints that “collegiate debt, now almost \$2 trillion, is almost 10 percent of total U.S.

debt.” I quote her: “Today, FSA's [student debt] portfolio is nearly 10 percent of our nation's debt. Stop and absorb that for a moment. Ten percent of our total national debt.”

Apparently, this chain reaction even influenced the president to fall in line with conservative spending cuts: Forbes reported on March 19, 2019, that “Trump proposes limits on student loan borrowing.”

Despite even getting the president's attention, nothing has changed. Lawmakers didn't grant his request, and President Donald Trump, distracted by other issues, has dropped this. Based on that, I maintain my initial prediction of a crash of the dollar if lawmakers refuse to cut spending.

Enter Rep. Ross Spano. Against all odds, he invited me to a personal one-on-one meeting July 30, 2019, as he has with other constituents. In attendance were myself, Rep. Spano, and two senior staff, Blaine Gravitt and James Jacobs. We spoke for 30 minutes about unfinished business in higher education.

To be clear, I'm conservative and don't seek free college, loan forgiveness, or liberal free handouts. But tuition is technically a tax.

Funding to an arm of government (state colleges), and students are sorely overtaxed. To mitigate this, I proposed Rep. Spano cosponsor HR 2648, the “Student Borrower Bankruptcy Relief Act of 2019.”

This would fix current U.S. bankruptcy law, which violates the U.S. Constitution's Uniformity Clause, a special type of equal protection, affording a small amount of "tax reduction" via bankruptcy. Moreover, it would force banks to lower loan limits because students could declare bankruptcy, forcing colleges to lower tuition to affordable levels like it was in the past - a sensible compromise between the two extremes: current liberal overtaxation supported by RINO Republicans and Sen. Bernie Sanders's "free" college and loan forgiveness handouts.

Congressman Spano asked me if HR 2648 was "retroactive" (for past loans) or merely "prospective" (moving forward). When I told him the bill would make bankruptcy retroactive, he objected, complaining this wouldn't be fair to those who've paid off their loans.

However, what he didn't consider was the fact that changes in law which stripped my bankruptcy safety net acted "retroactively." Thus, to be fair, any correction must be retroactively too. The various changes in federal law stripping my existing student loans of bankruptcy also violated the Constitution's Contract Clause. Were this any other contract, it would immediately void the entire contract.

Sanders's claim that college was once free in America was rated "mostly true" by PolitiFact, because it was free in some places and very affordable elsewhere. So, if America had the best higher education in the world - and was free in the past - it's not unreasonable to enact the more modest legislation I request.

News outlets reported last month that DeVos was about to be arrested for violating a court order for the Education Department to stop collecting on student loans from 16,000 students who went to the defunct Corinthian College, whose fraud made students eligible for a special discharge.

DeVos is obviously to blame, but I believe lawmakers' refusal to enact the bills I request were partly to blame for her losing her mind. Therefore, I call upon Rep. Spano to pass both the loan limits bill (which Trump, DeVos and myself have repeatedly requested) as well as HR 2648, a responsible compromise to the liberal overtaxation ruining anyone who aspires to get an education and better themselves.

Over 44 million Americans have college debt, and another 30 to 40 million as cosigners or family, so changes are needed.

My proposals, unlike a minimum wage hike, aren't inflationary, and thus the preferred way to offer relief to the middle class.

Gordon Wayne Watts (contact him at GordonWatts.com or GordonWayneWatts.com) is a former candidate for the Florida House of Representatives. He lives in Lakeland.

Polk Perspective: Offer relief for taxes dressed up as 'loans'

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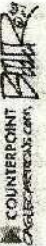
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Gordon Watts <gww1210@gmail.com>

Meeting Request

Hilton, Naomi <Naomi.Hilton@mail.house.gov>
To: "gww1210@gmail.com" <gww1210@gmail.com>

Wed, Aug 26, 2020 at 9:30 AM

Hi Gordon!

I hope you are doing well. Congressman Spano asked that I reach out and coordinate a meeting back at one of our district offices. Would you be available on September 8th at 9:00am for a meeting in the Brandon office?

Thanks!

Naomi Hilton

Scheduler

Congressman Ross Spano, FL-15

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Please note: As per the Office of Sergeant of Arms, the Capitol and House Office Buildings will only be open to Members, staff and official business visitors. For the time being, we will only be accepting tele-meeting requests. We apologize for the inconvenience.



Gordon Watts <gww1210@gmail.com>

Meeting Request

Gordon Watts <gww1210@gmail.com>

Wed, Aug 26, 2020 at 3:05 PM

To: "Hilton, Naomi" <Naomi.Hilton@mail.house.gov>

Cc: "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>, thirst4justice <thirst4justice@yahoo.com>, EBoltz@johnorcutt.com, Edward Boltz <EdBoltz@gmail.com>, Alan Collinge <justice@studentloanjustice.org>, studentloanjustice <studentloanjustice@yahoo.com>, alan_collinge <alan_collinge@msn.com>, Alan Collinge <alanmcollinge@gmail.com>

Absolutely. Thank you, Naomi, Ross, and the rest of you in his office.

I am making note that Sept. 08, 2020 @9am falls on a Tuesday, the day after labour day, and cc copying myself in my reply to that end.

The printed copies of reading materials I gave Ross a few weeks back, particularly the House Judiciary testimony of 3 Bankruptcy experts (one who is a friend) should be helpful prep, but if anyone needs help with anything, I can be reached 24/7 at 863-687-6141, or alternatively my prepaid with limited minutes at 863-688-9880 as an emergency backup or online by Googling my name.

Gordon Wayne Watts
Plant City Florida 33566

[Quoted text hidden]

3 attachments

 **image002.jpg**
1K **image003.jpg**
1K **image001.jpg**
1K

Editor's Note – and UPDATE / EPILOGUE:

Monday, 20 September 2021

As shown above, I asked for a personal, 1-on-1, meeting with former Congressman Ross Spano (R-FL-15), to discuss my request for legislation to fix a flaw in current U.S. Bankruptcy Code, where federal law violates the U.S. Constitution's UNIFORMITY CLAUSE, Art.I, Sec.8, cl.4., and he was kind enough to meet with me on **Tuesday, 30 July 2019, at 1:30pm**, in his Brandon, FL office—and I wrote about it in my guest column in *The Ledger*, dated **Tuesday, 19 November 2019**.

However, what is not shown there (because *The Ledger* did not publish a follow-up column from me on this) is that he was kind enough to meet with me again, on **Tuesday, 08 September 2020, at 9:00am**, again, in his Brandon, FL office—and, while I mentioned only 1 meeting in my *Ledger* column, nonetheless, above are both e-mails from his office, reflecting / documenting my 2ND personal, 1-on-1, meeting with him on this topic.

QUESTION: Why am I appending / updating this small “Fair Use” copy of my column, here, to reflect the update?

ANSWER: While I was sorely disappointed that he did not cosponsor the collegiate loan bankruptcy bill, in question (some even speculate this was a factor in his GOP primary loss to Rep. Scott Franklin—the ONLY Congressional “primary” loss in Florida for that election season), that would have corrected this Constitutional violation of law, **nonetheless, I am a Christian—and I wanted to give Ross the credit he deserves for hearing me out on both occasions.**

EPILOGUE: The matter still is, as of press time, unresolved, and “double standards” violations of the law still exist in this regard—but, there is breaking news: A new “Student Loan Bankruptcy” bill, with twice as many GOP sponsors as Democrat, was just introduced in the U.S. Senate: On Tue., Aug. 04, Sen. Dick Durbin (D-IL), Senate Judiciary Committee chair, introduced S.2598 - The "FRESH START Through Bankruptcy Act"; follow the bill here:

<https://www.Congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/senate-bill/2598>

As it currently, as of press time, has 2 GOP sponsors and 1 Democrat, it is factually correct to say that it has “twice as many Republican sponsors as Democrat.”

We need to keep all our leaders in prayer so that they would not engage in immoral double standards (e.g., “bankruptcy for me, but not for thee”) which violate both Jesus'es golden rule, as well the the U.S. Constitution's uniformity clause.

Gordon Wayne Watts,
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National Director, CONTRACT WITH AMERICA: PART II^(TM)
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