



Once Again the Administration Is Setting Its Eyes on The Wrong Prize 05/27/2022

There is serious talk that the White House will propose to forgive student loans up to \$10,000 and limit those eligible to low- and middle-income individuals. This is wrong on so many levels. It sends a bad signal that if you take out a loan you are not responsible or obligated to pay it back. Those who took out loans and paid it back will be doubly hit. They paid their obligations and now as taxpayers will have to pony up for those that didn't.

There is a much better way to help the low income and low moderate-income household, and that is to extend an existing program called the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). Take the dollars you were prepared to spend on the loan forgiveness and increase the funding and the eligibility by expanding the cutoff to some higher threshold.

Low and moderately low middle income households will be under enormous pressure. They are faced with substantially higher costs for food, rent, gasoline, and electric costs among others. They are going to have to make impossible choices this year. They need a safety net. I believe the money we are willing to spend to forgive the education loans could be more productively spent.