

## What distinguishes JCL borrowers from the broader borrower base and student loan forgiveness movement?



- Joint Consolidation Loan (**JCL**) borrowers sought statute directly from Congress to solve our student loan issue, in the manner prescribed by opponents of broad forgiveness. We were the only FFEL borrowers that were required to do so.
- The **FFEL JCLs are the only FFEL loans that were unable to be converted to Direct Loans**. As a result, JCL borrowers did not have the same opportunities or access as other FFEL borrowers. Since 2008, borrowers with a FFEL Consolidation Loan could legally convert their loan into a Direct Loan if they were pursuing Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) (20 U.S.C. § 1078-3), but FFEL JCLs were excluded from this option. Under President Biden's Student Loan reforms and relief, all FFEL loans, except JCLs, became eligible for conversion to Direct Loans. It's important to note that about 80% of JCLs are FFEL loans.
- Continued servicing of JCL loans endangers abuse victims to continued illegal physical threat and economic abuse, running contrary to the Violence Against Women Act Reauthorization of 2022 (VAWA2022),

The average Joint Consolidation Loan (JCL) Borrower has paid **19.9 YEARS**, has paid **101%** of their original BALANCE, & still owes **125%** of their original BALANCE

We kindly request you direct inquiries to the Department of Education (ED), sharing what you have heard from JCL borrowers in your district/state. Please hold the Department accountable to implement the law quickly, and and to share firm implementation dates or plans. Joint Consolidation Borrowers desperately need to be processed starting in September 2024. Please consider 1) directing communication to the Office of Legislation and Congressional Affairs, 2) arranging staff-level calls with ED, 3) engaging your Legislative Director to escalate status requests with ED's Director of the Office of Legislative Affairs, and 4) scheduling a call with ED C-Staff and leadership, such as Secretary Cardona.

budget neutral  
bipartisan  
bicameral  
common sense

Congress rightly and urgently passed the bill in the Senate by Unanimous Consent and in the House of Representatives with bipartisan support, finally bringing the Higher Education Act (HEA) in alignment with VAWA2022. This bill allows two comakers of a Joint Spousal Consolidation Loan to split the loan into individual loans based on their respective loan portions. As of October 11, 2022, JCL borrowers have had the right to separate their loans, but ED has not implemented with the same urgency that Congress passed the law.

## What are JCL borrowers' undue hardships since the passing of PL117-200?

Real Costs  
**\$25,520**

The **average** amount of interest accrued by an FFEL JCL borrower while **barred from the Payment pause & waiting for ED to implement PL117-200** (\$385/mo.), **IF** Ed delivers separation in October 2024. Average monthly pmts < interest accumulated. **Some borrowers have already accrued \$34,000.**

We cannot deliver JCLSA until the end of 2024, at earliest. Congress flatlined our funding in 2023.

**ED says.**

**DURING THE COVID STUDENT LOAN PAYMENT PAUSE**

**53** JCL borrowers collectively

**PAID**

**\$861,703** but their collective

**BALANCE** only dropped

**\$3237**

Further delay by ED will secure the fate of this most vulnerable borrower group, which will scar the Biden legacy as the only student loan group to modify the HEA under his presidency and not gain access to any of his benefits.

- Access to PSLF under 20 U.S.C. § 1078-3 **blocked**.
- Access to 0% COVID Pause **blocked**.
- Access to PSLF Waiver **blocked**.
- Access to one-time IDR/PSLF adjustment **blocked**
- Realizing Permanent Disability **blocked**
- Access to Borrower Defense **blocked**
- Separation from Abusive/Former Spouse **blocked**
- Statutory right to separate **blocked**
- Access to improved payment plans **blocked**

**80%** are seeking access to PSLF, but are blocked!

Despite the Herculean effort to correct statute, the egregious conditions of the last 18 years persist under the new law, **because Congress starved the law's implementation by flatlining ED's budget in January 2023.** For ED, Presidential reforms have taken priority.

**37%** divorced with uncooperative ex-spouses & victims of ABUSE

"...The bottom line is this spousal consolidation has kept me bound to my abuser. These loans have continued to be an avenue in which my abuser continues to intimidate and abuse me. The government has allowed this with no solutions. They have forgotten me."

~Jen, SpousalConsolidation.DoUsPart! member

**Congress's (YOUR) law is most meaningless when it cannot be executed to restore justice at a time when it is so direly needed.**