

Supreme Court Refuses To Block Biden's Billion-Dollar Student Loan Forgiveness Scheme

Description

<u>Update (10/20/22 1700ET)</u>: US Supreme Court Justice Amy Coney Barrett rejected a bid to block President Joe Biden's student-loan relief plan before it takes effect in the coming days.

Giving no explanation, Barrett denied a request filed Wednesday by the Brown County Taxpayers Association, a Wisconsin group that sought to keep the plan on hold while its legal challenge goes forward.

As Bloomberg reports, Barrett chose not to refer the matter to the full court or seek a response from the administration, suggesting she didn't view the emergency request as a close call.

But with at least five lawsuits challenging the plan, including two filed by Republican-led states, the rebuff isn't likely to be the final word.

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The Supreme Court on Wednesday was asked by a Wisconsin tax advocacy group **to block the Biden administration's student loan debt relief scheme**, which is set to take effect this weekend.



The emergency filing from the Brown County Taxpayers Association asked Justice Amy Coney Barrett, who is responsible for handling such requests from the 7th federal appeals court, to **delay implementation of the debt relief plan** while their lawsuit plays out, according to *CNBC*.

NEW: Supreme Court asked to block Biden student debt relief plan from taking effect. pic.twitter.com/UT1xM9OUbV

- Greg Stohr (@GregStohr) October 19, 2022

And as the <u>Epoch Times</u> notes (emphasis ours), tens of millions of Americans across the country are now eligible to apply for student loan cancellation under President Joe Biden's loan forgiveness program despite a number of lawsuits opposing the scheme.



President Joe Biden speaks in the Roosevelt Room of the White House in Washington on Aug. 24, 2022. (Evan Vucci/AP Photo)

Biden <u>announced</u> the launch of the official application site at <u>StudentAid.gov</u> on Monday **after a "beta"** test version of the site was rolled out over the weekend.

"Today, I'm announcing millions of people, working and middle-class folks, can apply to get this relief. And it's simple and it's easy, it's fast," Biden said in remarks delivered from the South Court Auditorium of the White House. "You'll be able to fill out your name, Social Security number, date of birth, and contact information. No forms to upload. No special log-in to remember. It's available in English and in Spanish, on desktop and mobile."

Biden said the application will take "less than five minutes" to complete and will be a "game changer for millions of Americans," noting that it took an "incredible amount of effort to get this website done in such a short time."

Biden announced in August that he plans to cancel up to \$10,000 in student loan debt for individuals making less than \$125,000 a year, or as much as \$20,000 for eligible borrowers who were also Pell Grant recipients.

An update on Sept. 29 states that borrowers who have federal student loans that are owned by private entities and not by the Department of Education will no longer qualify for the relief program.

Borrowers have until Dec. 31, 2023 to submit an application.

The White House said on Monday that over 8 million borrowers had already applied for loan forgiveness through the beta version of the website "without a glitch or any difficulty."



President Joe Biden announces student loan relief with Education Secretary Miguel Cardona (R) at the White House in Washington, on Aug. 24, 2022. (Olivier Douliery/AFP via Getty Images)

Lawsuits Mounting

"We had over 10,000 people contact the White House and be—either send us letters or calls thanking us," Biden claimed.

His comment's come as a number of Republican-led states and business groups filed a lawsuit against the loan forgiveness plan, which comes in the midst of soaring inflation, contesting that it is illegal.

Last week, the Job Creators Network Foundation Legal Action Fund, a small-business advocacy group, became the latest group to file suit against Biden's plan, arguing that it is counterproductive, inflationary, and that it is in violation of the Administrative Procedure Act's notice-and-comment procedures through which the administration should have sought the public's input or comment on the program.

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The legal challenges that have been brought against the president's plan continue to mount.

Six Republican-led states — Arkansas, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska and South Carolina — are trying to block Biden's plan, arguing that the president doesn't have the power to issue nationwide debt relief without Congress. They're also claiming that the policy would harm private companies that service some federal student loans by reducing their business.

A federal judge earlier this month dismissed The Brown County Taxpayers Association's lawsuit against the Biden administration, finding it <u>didn't have standing</u> to bring its challenge. -CNBC

According to Harvard Law professor Lawrence Tribe, the biggest obstacle for those seeking to challenge Biden's plan is finding a plaintiff who can prove they've been harmed by the policy.

"Such injury is needed to establish what courts call 'standing," said Tribe, who isn't convinced that any of the current lawsuits pending against the policy have successfully done that.

by Tyler Durden

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Date Created

10/21/2022