

Macias, Wendy

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, June 15, 2009 11:38 PM
To: negreg09
Subject: Student Loan Reform

Dear Officer of Loans,

My student debt resulted in all my transcripts getting taken away for the last 20 years. I have lost my profession (social work), because my Masters has been sequestered at Case Western Reserve University.

Then, University of Pennsylvania's law-breaking collection agency, Haber & Haber, illegally froze my bank account last year, and the twelve-hundred dollars I had been saving for months and months for my CAT-scan (my throat closes up sometimes and I almost choke, it is terrifying), were gone. So I could not get medical attention at all. Of course I had no insurance. I am almost 60, and have been in destitution for twenty years. This is insane and beneath dignity.

A lawyer kindly pointed out that Haber and Haber, the U of Penn collection agency, broke the law with that bank seizure. I wrote to this effect to the New York City Marshall, and they later refunded me part of that money. But then Haber and Haber assessed a five-thousand dollar "poundage" charge against me. What began as my 30-thousand dollar debt is now well over two-hundred thousand. I made 14-thousand last year, the year before, 7-thousand dollars. Two years before that, and for two consecutive years, I made nothing.

They take away my transcripts, I cannot get my professional license, so no one will hire me. Now, at my age, no one ever will. I freelance as I can doing Spanish interpreting in Immigration Court. On some weeks I get no work at all.

I am denied discharge through bankruptcy. No one supervises the collection agencies assessing me tens of thousands of dollars for "collection" costs, as they buy and sell my loan to each other. They charge interests on the interest, so now it is so gigantic, I am like the walking dead. In fact, financially, economically, professionally, they have killed me.

They cut off my feet by denying me my income-earning credentials (transcripts), while demanding more and more stridently that I pay back these absurd sums.

Your system has sent to [REDACTED] countless thousands of people like me. And I tell you this: I went to college in Canada, I borrowed every year, and I paid it all back. The figures were more humane, the interests were more reasonable, and I had 100% success. Naively, and wrongly, I then did the same approach here in the US. Except here, after I stumbled, I got killed.

Shame on this barbaric system. Shame on all this chicanery, on the brute [REDACTED] getting fat and arrogant by the acquisition of their ill-gotten wealth.

I have paid back over the years what I could, but it is useless. This is a monster. My life is over now in terms of ever getting out from the dark hole into which I walked long ago. Corporations get a second chance through bankruptcy discharge, hell, they even get free bailouts in the hundreds of billions because they are too big to fail. And we're too small to matter, then. The very few stay rich, and the very very many, we just go to [REDACTED] You have no idea of our life in the stinking trenches. So make some changes.

