

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**CONTACT:** Giovanni Rocco, 202.478.6348

[grocco@americanprogress.org](mailto:grocco@americanprogress.org)

## **STATEMENT: Maggie Thompson on Youth Groups Stymying Secretary DeVos' For-Profit Agenda**

Washington, D.C.— In a victory for consumers and student loan borrowers, the Trump administration admitted that the Betsy DeVos Department of Education will not meet its November 1<sup>st</sup> deadline to issue new Borrower Defense and Gainful Employment regulations. According to a Trump administration official, this was due to the high volume of comments received by the department.

A coalition of youth organizations led by Higher Ed, Not Debt and Generation Progress mobilized students and borrowers, the majority of whom have been wronged by predatory or fraudulent programs, to submit the record number of comments that helped delay the new rules. More than 13,000 of the nearly 40,000 comments submitted for Borrower Defense were driven by our coalition. For Gainful Employment, more than 12,000 of the nearly 14,000 comments submitted came from students and borrowers in our network.

Maggie Thompson, executive director of Generation Progress, released the following statement:

“Thousands of defrauded young people have come together to deny Secretary DeVos two of her main higher education priorities. Due in part to the thousands of public comment submissions made by young people and borrowers nationwide, we’ve stopped DeVos in her tracks. This delay opens up the pathway for giving full and immediate relief to cheated students and banning schools from using mandatory arbitration agreements that deny students their right to take bad actors to court.”

Higher Ed, Not Debt and Generation Progress, with our coalition of youth organizations, will continue to fight alongside defrauded student loan borrowers in the face of opposition by Betsy DeVos and President Trump.

**For more information or to speak with an expert**, contact Giovanni Rocco at [grocco@americanprogress.org](mailto:grocco@americanprogress.org) or 202.478.6348

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*Higher Ed, Not Debt, is a multi-year, multi-organization, campaign dedicated to the premise that high-quality higher education is a public good, that should be affordable and accessible to all, without the burden of debt or financial hardship. Higher Ed, Not Debt, is housed within Generation Progress, the youth-engagement arm of the Center for American Progress.*