

**Questions for the Record from
REPRESENTATIVE ERIN HOUCHIN**

Full Committee Hearing:

“Breaking the System Part II: Examining the Implications of Biden’s Student Loan Policies for Students and Taxpayers”

May 24, 2023

10:15 a.m.

Representative Erin Houchin (R-IN)

1. In alignment with this Committee’s continued effort for transparency and oversight, I would like to discuss Income-Driven Repayment plans and President Biden’s reckless rule proposal that would effectively forgive nearly half of the student loan debt and cost taxpayers at least \$138 billion over the next ten years.
 - a) Are you verifying income when a borrower applies or recertifies for an Income-Driven Repayment plan?
 - b) Why is FSA allowing borrowers to self-certify their income for IDR, and why is this option available until six months after borrowers return to repayment?
2. Chairwoman Foxx and Oversight Chairman Comer sent a letter to the Department on May 12. The letter raises serious questions about why FSA would choose to ignore all past reports and red flags that borrowers will misreport their income when enrolling in Income-Driven Repayment if there aren’t sufficient checks. This blatant disregard for best practices leads me to believe that FSA is content with the possibility that a majority of Income-Driven Repayment borrowers could have misreported their income and be paying the incorrect monthly payments when the payment pause ends.
 - a) It is not consumer protection or taxpayer protection to allow fraud. What standard practice is FSA relying on that states self-certification of income is an appropriate option for running an income-based repayment plan?
 - b) The committees asked for a briefing by May 19, but have not been briefed. Will you commit to following up to fulfill this request?