



MEDIA ADVISORY

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Contacts:

[Gretchen Wright](#)
202/371-1999

[Kim Hayes](#)
202/371-1999

TICAS Testifying on Debt Relief for Defrauded Students Tomorrow at U.S. Dept. of Education Hearing in San Francisco

Tomorrow in San Francisco, the U.S. Department of Education (Department) holds its second and final public hearing on a regulatory process with high stakes for federal student loan borrowers harmed by unscrupulous schools. **Debbie Cochrane**, research director at The Institute for College Access & Success (TICAS), will testify along with other student and consumer advocates seeking relief for borrowers and accountability for colleges.

These topics have particular relevance in California, home to thousands of former Corinthian College students. While defrauded and misled students are entitled to relief under federal law, the current application process and criteria are onerous and hard to navigate without a lawyer. A bill now on Governor Brown's desk, AB 573, would help Corinthian students by funding legal services assistance to help them get through the existing process.

The Department is seeking public input for a new [rulemaking](#) focused on borrower defenses to repayment. TICAS and others are weighing in on the eligibility standards for relief and the process for getting relief, as well as suggesting additional regulatory topics to be added to the agenda. **Cochrane** and other TICAS experts are available to discuss our recommendations today and throughout the week. Among the issues we are raising:

- making sure that the borrower defense process covers all types of federal loans (not just Direct loans as the Department has proposed);
- providing automatic group discharges in cases of documented school misconduct;
- updating and strengthening complementary rules for loan discharges and school penalties under "false certification"; and
- making it harder for colleges to manipulate their cohort default rates and 90-10 Rule rates.

TICAS will be submitting detailed written comments later this week. Examples of other public comments submitted so far can be [viewed online](#). Here are more details about tomorrow's hearing and this rulemaking process:

San Francisco Hearing

When: *Wednesday, September 16, 2015, 9am - 4pm Pacific Time; Cochrane will be speaking first at 9:10 am*

Where: Courtyard San Francisco Downtown, Rincon Hill Room
299 2nd Street, San Francisco, California 94105

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An independent, nonprofit organization, The Institute for College Access & Success (TICAS) works to make higher education more available and affordable for people of all backgrounds. Our Project on Student Debt works to increase public understanding of rising student debt and the implications for our families, economy, and society. For more information see www.ticas.org or follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).