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To: MoveOn.org
Subject: Overwhelming support for Warren bill, Congress faces backlash if student loan rates double
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More than four in five American voters (83%) in PPP's national survey want Congress to either keep interest rates on federal student loans where they are now or lower them significantly. Opinion on that is split roughly evenly, with 42% saying rates should stay at 3.4%, and 41% saying they should fall to about 0.75%. Voters of all partisan stripes agree: 86% of Republicans, 84% of Democrats, and 77% of independents want Congress to take action on this issue.

Congress has a problem on its hands if it lets rates double this summer. Roughly three-quarters of voters say they would be less likely to vote for their representative if he or she voted to allow rates to rise to 8.5% (77%) or 6.8% (74%). Perhaps surprisingly, Republicans are even slightly more likely than the overall electorate to punish their representatives if they take this action. 82% of them would look down on a candidate for letting rates rise to 8.5%, and 77% if they let rates double to 6.8%.

On the other hand, over half of voters (52%) would be *more* likely to vote for a congressperson who votes to keep rates at 3.4%. That includes 55% of both Democrats and Republicans. And even more (55%) would look more favorably on a candidate if he or she voted to drop rates to about 0.75%. 60% of Democrats, 54% of independents, and 50% of Republicans say that.

The strongest results for student advocates come when voters are asked about Sen. Elizabeth Warren's bill, known as the Bank on Students Loan Fairness Act. That would allow students to repay loans with the same rate as banks pay the federal government (about 0.75%). Voters support that proposal by a 2:1 margin (60% in support and only 30% opposed). 65% of Democrats and 56% of each Republicans and independents support the bill.

PPP surveyed 700 American voters from June 11th to 12th, 2013. The margin of error for the survey is +/-3.7%. This survey was sponsored by MoveOn.org.

