

FOIA MARKER

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Series/Staff Member: Jim Kreidler
Subseries:

OA/ID Number: 1284
FolderID:

Folder Title:
[National Service for Student Debt] [loose]

Stack:
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Row:
66

Section:
2

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5

Position:
1

Barry Sparkman

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409/744-0279

May 26, 1993

Mr. Eli Segal
Office of National Service
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Mr. Segal,

I am writing in support of National Service for student debt. The fate of our public educational system hinges on the proposal now under debate.

National Service should target the educational system itself and be designed to bail-out schools and libraries. It should reach the country as a whole. Proposed jobs should be in the millions, and not 100,000's as now planned. Also, Service should be and made available to the 4-5 million graduates already trained and in debt in order to alleviate the crisis that has already been created.

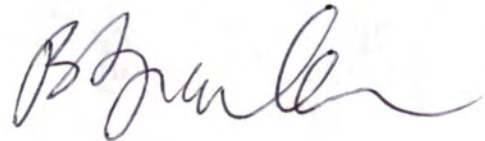
I received a MFA in 1985 from Middle Tennessee State University and an MFA from Louisiana State University in 1989. My goal was a academic position in a university art department. I amassed \$28,323.81 in guaranteed student loans while in school.

Since graduation, four years ago, I have been unable to secure full time employment in my field. I have held four adjunct positions. None of those jobs provided any benefits. I received an average of \$1200. per course taught. Only one of the jobs was potentially permanent. I moved from Tennessee to South Carolina to accept it. Ironically, it was eliminated after only one semester because of state budget cuts. Another job I was hired for and prepared to teach was cancelled just prior to beginning because of another budget cut. I have applied for over eighty advertised positions for which I am qualified just this year. The number of applicant for each of these jobs has typically been over 150.

Because I have been unable to make payments on my student loans, they have been deferred and drawing interest. Since graduation, I have

accumulated \$14,730.99 in interest making the amount that I owe \$43,054.80. When I am able to begin making payments on my loan, they will be \$358.79. The jobs that I am applying for pay an average of \$26,000. per year.

If I am not given some opportunity such as National Service, my loans will be added to the nearly \$17 billion already in default. **PLEASE HELP!**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B. Zwick", written in a cursive style.