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Guest Column Submission

Gordon Wayne Watts, Natl Dir, CONTRACT WITH AMERICA: PART II®™, e.g., is a registered trademark Tue, Jul 23, 2024
 <gordon@contractwithamerica2.com> at 3:07 AM

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Cc: Sherri Day <sday@tampabay.com>, cgallaty@tampabay.com, hill@tampabay.com, sdortch@tampabay.com, Wemarch <wemarch@gmail.com>, Info <info@votelaurel.com>, Laurel <Laurel@votelaurel.com>, Jen Barbosa For Congress <BarbosaCongress@gmail.com>, Info <info@judgeforcongress.com>, James <James@judgeforcongress.com>, Web <web@virginiafoxx.com>, edworkforcepress@edworkforcegop.housecommunications.gov, Ed Workforce Press <edworkforcepress@mail.house.gov>, Gww1210@aol.com, Gww1210@gmail.com, Gordon@contractwithamerica2.com, Privacy@djtfp24.com, Press@djtfp24.com

Tuesday, 23 July 2024

Dear Graham Brink, Jim Verhulst, and other *TIMES* editorial and letters editors: (and as indicated in cc line)

(#1.) I wish to submit a guest column for consideration, and – if it's alright – I'd like 735+ words like that last guy, ok? I refer to the 735-word (more when counting footer, title, etc.) OPINION | Guest Column, by Richard Williams, “Let’s start shunning liars: All these lies make us cynical or worse, they cause psychological problems of our own. We need a biblical solution,” *TAMPA BAY TIMES*, Friday, July 5, 2024, LINK: <https://www.TampaBay.com/opinion/2024/07/05/lets-start-shunning-liars/>) The screw-ups – **which threaten us ALL** – are – now – so bad that I'll need at *LEAST* that much, even to have a *chance* to avert disaster. (Or at least slow it down—and buy our kids 1 or 2 more generations of peace.) Plus, you remember my Conservative Credentials are “legendary.” Among other things, I nearly won the 3RD largest pro-life case since *Roe*, losing a close 4-3 split decision in the Fla Sup Court, doing better than a sitting governor AND a team of legal experts – *combined* – all by myself~~{###}~~ – so, please be patient with me ... just this once – if either you trust me – or just want to avoid unnecessary disaster that threatens us all – or simply want an interesting read for *Times* readers – *or some combination thereof*.

~~{###}~~ ** *In Re: GORDON WAYNE WATTS (as next friend of THERESA MARIE 'TERRI' SCHIAVO)*, No. SC03-2420 (Fla. Feb.23, 2005), denied 4-3 on rehearing. (Watts got 42.7% of his panel) <https://www.floridasupremecourt.org/clerk/dispositions/2005/2/03-2420reh.pdf>

** *In Re: JEB BUSH, GOVERNOR OF FLORIDA, ET AL. v. MICHAEL SCHIAVO, GUARDIAN: THERESA SCHIAVO*, No. SC04-925 (Fla. Oct.21, 2004), denied 7-0 on rehearing. (Bush got 0.0% of his panel before the same court) <https://www.floridasupremecourt.org/clerk/dispositions/2004/10/04-925reh.pdf>

** *Schiavo ex rel. Schindler v. Schiavo ex rel. Schiavo*, 403 F.3d 1223, 2005 WL 648897 (11th Cir. Mar.23, 2005), denied 2-1 on appeal. (Terri Schiavo's own blood family only got 33.3% of their panel on the Federal Appeals level) <https://media.ca11.uscourts.gov/opinions/pub/files/200511556.pdf>

** Cf: [https://www.Google.com/search?&q="4-3"+schiavo+gordon+wayne+watts](https://www.Google.com/search?&q=)

** My “staff” entry on my work website has many other credentials & accomplishments of similar nature:

* <https://ContractWithAmerica2.com/#staff>

* <https://Archive.vn/laznT#staff>

* <https://Web.Archive.org/web/20240520235246/https://contractwithamerica2.com/#staff>

(#2.) Secondly, while we all know you accept 300-word (or more) letters, your online form limits submissions to 250 words. Quote: “Enter 3 to 250 words. Currently Used: 0 words” I'm not sure if that inconsistency is an important matter

(maybe only those with the “secret” email DESERVE 300+ words!, and all the rest can just chill out!), but – to be a good neighbour – I shall mention it for your review. LINK: <https://www.TampaBay.com/opinion/submit-letter/>

(#3.) P.S.: Although I was hoping you'd publish my 300-word letter submission a while back, I'm glad you didn't, as 300-words wouldn't do justice to these existential threats. And, it'd make it ... “harder” for you to then publish my 700 or 800-word column, here. (Nonetheless, if you did accidentally publish my letter, you still could do like the *FLORIDA FLAMBEAU* did, and publish both submissions: My 2ND letter was titled “More from Mr. Watts!” And, they didn't suffer any harm (at least for a short while—before they went out of business shortly afterwards!)

Source: “More from Mr. Watts,” LETTERS, *The Florida Flambeau*, page 5, Tuesday, February 11, 1997,

LINK: https://ContractWithAmerica2.com/FannyDeregulation/FlaFlambeau_Tue11Feb1997FairUseArchive/

Archive: <https://Archive.vn/Qep7H>

Wayback: https://Web.Archive.org/web/20240712134535/https://contractwithamerica2.com/FannyDeregulation/FlaFlambeau_Tue11Feb1997FairUseArchive/ You write: “The Times Editorial Board has started publishing its recommendations in the primary election races. The recommendations should all be published by July 28.” (Link: <https://www.TampaBay.com/opinion/2024/07/19/all-times-editorial-board-recommendations-2024-primary-elections/>) So, my Guest Column submitted this morning (Tue. 7-23-2024) should give you PLENTY of time to reconsider your (bad) endorsement of a certain lawmakers who is the subject of this column. I shall try to cc copy all the editorial board (if my spam filters don't stop me), because I have honour & don't talk behind their back; I'll show respect & keep them in the loop—so they may respond if they like. (Hopefully, your board will change its mind on your previous endorsement of Rep. Laurel Lee, but either way, if *The Times* has honour, I should hope that you will allow all views to be aired –and discussed. Including the one below.) – OK, without further ado, here's my submission, both in the body of my email ****and**** attached as a *.doc Word document, to be safe, along with a “provided photo” of the writer & related pics:

OPINION | Guest Column

Gordon Wayne Watts

Times wrong to endorse RINO Laurel Lee

Lee doesn't represent either Republicans or Democrats (only donors), but the problem is more widespread than one lawmaker –threatening even to crash the Dollar



“Crash of the Dollar” Meme from Gordon Wayne Watts. [Provided]

Published Sunday, July 28, 2024

The Times recently published a fine piece by Richard Williams ["Let's Start Shunning Liars," July 5], which called for a "Biblical Solution." Right! Well, other than—say—WW3 or another Pandemic, a crash of the dollar is the worst threat we face, so we must "return to a place of beginnings" if we are to survive.

In its Oct. 13, 2022 Editorial Board recommendations, *The Times* endorsed Laurel Lee, Republican, over Alan Cohn, Democrat, for the Dist. 15 Congressional race. This even in spite of *The Times* knowing full well that her campaign contributions were from the elite, rich, at least \$1 million from a political committee associated with her husband. ["Who's boosting Laurel Lee's campaign contributions for Congress," William March, July 24, 2022]. ("Follow the money," they say!)



Gordon W. Watts [Provided]

In my few requests for help from Graham Brink, Jim Verhult, and Sheri Day, by phone, email, or text, respectively, all 3 promptly responded to help with technical questions on submitting letters & columns, and I'm confident that all *Times* staff have good intentions, so I mean no disrespect, but—bluntly put—*The Times* lied when it said that Lee was more qualified—and is in need of a "Biblical Solution," so here's my response:

I knew Lee was a RINO (Republican in Name Only) early on and voted for Cohn, but *The Times* confirmed this when it reported that: "The two also agreed on the need for border security, with Cohn saying there needed to be a bipartisan solution to the waves of immigrants entering the U.S." ["3 takeaways from Laurel Lee, Alan Cohn debate for Florida's 15th District," Romy Ellenbogen, Oct. 22, 2022] However, that's the least of Lee's problems.

I'm sure no one will forget my recent letter to *The Ledger* ["Trump's flip-flop back RINO Laurel Lee," Sunday, June 30, 2024]—least of all Trump or Lee! But their 200-word limit doesn't do justice to the magnitude of Lee's dangerous behavior, so a column (perhaps several!) are needed to address it: as my letter informs readers, Lee never responded to our press inquiry asking her to cut our budget's largest pork, as our GOP Platform requires. "The federal government should not be in the business of originating student loans." Student debt—at over \$2 Trillion—is almost ten percent of total U.S. Debt (the LARGEST discretionary "pork" in the budget!), which is now over \$34 Trillion—growing by \$1 trillion every 90—100 days. Student Debt is only overshadowed by "mandatory spending" giants, like Defense and Social Security!

"Trump's flip-flop backs RINO Laurel Lee," LETTERS, *The Lakeland Ledger*, Sunday, June 30, 2024,

LINK: <https://www.TheLedger.com/story/opinion/letters/2024/06/30/voice-of-the-people-june-30-2024-floridas-right-to-privacy/74230595007/>

Archive: <https://Archive.ph/FDwOL>

Wayback: <https://Web.Archive.org/web/20240701051323/https://archive.vn/FDwOL>

CWA2 Fair Use Archive: https://ContractWithAmerica2.com/FannyDeregulation/TheLedger_Letter_Sunday30June2024_Watts.pdf.pdf

{{2}} Press Inquiry from *The Register* to Dist. 15 Congressional Candidates, dated June 11, 2024:

Mirror-1: https://GordonWatts.com/FannyDeregulation/PressInquiry_FL-15_Candidates_Tue11June2024.pdf

Mirror-2: https://GordonWayneWatts.com/FannyDeregulation/PressInquiry_FL-15_Candidates_Tue11June2024.pdf

Wayback: https://Web.Archive.org/web/20240627053538/https://GordonWatts.com/FannyDeregulation/PressInquiry_FL-15_Candidates_Tue11June2024.pdf

{{3}} QUOTE: On page 35 of the Republican Party Platform, we see the GOP clearly says: “The federal government should not be in the business of originating student loans.” (1ST sentence of last paragraph, near bottom-right of page) [Editor's Note: This is page 42 of 66 of “PDF” page numbers, but the writer labels this as page “35,” since the first 7 pages weren't given regular page numbers.] Source: “**REPUBLICAN PLATFORM 2016**,” used under Fair Use for commentary, criticism, and research. Editor's Note: This author could not find a more current version, such as 2020 or more recent.

LINK: https://Prod-Cdn-Static.GOP.com/media/documents/DRAFT_12_FINAL%5B1%5D-ben_1468872234.pdf

Archive-1: [https://Web.Archive.org/web/20220511165601/https://Prod-Cdn-Static.GOP.com/media/documents/DRAFT_12_FINAL\[1\]-ben_1468872234.pdf](https://Web.Archive.org/web/20220511165601/https://Prod-Cdn-Static.GOP.com/media/documents/DRAFT_12_FINAL[1]-ben_1468872234.pdf)

Archive-2: [https://GordonWatts.com/DRAFT_12_FINAL\[1\]-ben_1468872234.pdf](https://GordonWatts.com/DRAFT_12_FINAL[1]-ben_1468872234.pdf)

Archive-3: [https://ContractWithAmerica2.com/DRAFT_12_FINAL\[1\]-ben_1468872234.pdf](https://ContractWithAmerica2.com/DRAFT_12_FINAL[1]-ben_1468872234.pdf)

That Lee won't file legislation to STOP spending MY tax dollars to originate (make) student loans is “the tell”: She's a RINO who doesn't represent her Conservative base, disloyal to our GOP Platform—in a word, a liar. Besides her absentee record of missing many key votes, *FreedomIndex* gives her a score of 53 for adherence to The Constitution (limited government, fiscal responsibility, etc.).{{4}}

{{4}} The Freedom Index rates members of congress based on their adherence to constitutional principles of limited government, fiscal responsibility, national sovereignty, and a traditional foreign policy of avoiding foreign entanglements.

LINK: <https://TheFreedomindex.org/legislator/?search=&congress=118&state=fl&party=&chamber=>

Archive: <https://Archive.vn/CCKfT>

Wayback-1: <https://Web.Archive.org/web/20240721014638/https://archive.vn/CCKfT>

Wayback-2: <https://Web.Archive.org/web/20240721014127/https://thefreedomindex.org/legislator/?search=&congress=118&state=fl&party=&chamber=>

By contrast, Matt Gaetz is ranked 85, Anna Paulina Luna, 96, and Scott Franklin, another RINO—who also refused to attempt such spending cuts when he was my congressman—ranked at only 70. I don't mean disrespect to Lee, and know she has a stellar reputation for showing respect to others (and her staff are always respectful & attentive to me when I call to express my legislative opinions). But I didn't hire her for a \$200 grand/year job to just be nice: She has a job to do—and refuses! Presumably because lobbyists, who benefit when taxpayers are raped in the Trillions, benefit!

It's actually worse: As long as I can remember—ere the beginning of time—almost ZERO GOP lawmakers have even *TRIED* to obey our platform—as *The Register's* own investigation{{5}} shows, only 8.14% of all GOP lawmakers have even made feeble attempts to obey our platform (or 0.00% when you don't consider H.R.899, to eliminate the Dept of Ed, be this bill has no chance of passing). *OpenTheBooks*, a Conservative watchdog, confirms our fears: They found{{6}} that the GOP-led “Freedom Caucus” earmarked far more than the Democrat-led “Squad” (\$23.1 million/member vs. \$13.9

million for the average Squad member), spending like drunken sailors. (My apologies to all drunken sailors—for my ill comparison to GOP lawmakers!)

{{5}} The other 91.86%, being generous, are hypocritical and refuse to obey our own GOP platform, in which they are under investigation for this—For context, we found an 18.1% compliance rate by DEMOCRAT lawmakers for a metric on their compliance with their own Democratic Party Platform on a related issue—student loan bankruptcy reinstatement: Source: “Lawmakers who don't follow their own party platforms: What percentage of lawmakers in each political party obey their own party's platform in key higher ed funding legislation? Almost zero, and this threatens to crash the U.S. Dollar if not stopped.” by Gordon Wayne Watts, Editor-in-Chief, *The Register* | HIGHER EDUCATION, Tuesday, 07 June 2022, LINKS:

Mirror-1: https://GordonWatts.com/HigherEd_OpenInvestigation.html

Mirror-2: https://GordonWayneWatts.com/HigherEd_OpenInvestigation.html

Archive: <https://Archive.vn/4zTf0>

Wayback: https://Web.Archive.org/web/20240506022456/https://gordonwatts.com/HigherEd_OpenInvestigation.html

{{6}} Source: “Substack: House Freedom Caucus Members Earmarked Nearly \$1 Billion From Taxpayers,” by Adam Andrzejewski and staff, *OPEN THE BOOKS*, April 3, 2024, 03:40 PM, LINKS:

<https://www.OpenTheBooks.com/substack-house-freedom-caucus-members-earmarked-nearly-1-billion-fromtaxpayers/>

Archive: <https://Archive.vn/Wp8TI>

<https://Web.Archive.org/web/20240409021317/https://www.openthebooks.com/substack-house-freedom-caucus-members-earmarked-nearly-1-billion-from-taxpayers/>

USA Today reports{{7}} taxpayers have made a huge profit from students, and multiple other sources{{8}}{{9}}{{10}} confirm that, indeed, students have overpaid taxpayers (“US Department of Education, on average, recovers \$1.22 for every dollar paid out in default claims,” *Forbes*).{{10}} (This makes a good case for “forgiveness,” but that isn't a long-term solution, and would only free some debt slaves without abolishing debt slavery. PPP recipients—by contrast—haven't repaid anything—and with our dire shortage of doctors & nurses, students can't be blamed for going to college, no matter the costs—but that's a matter for another column.)

{{7}} “Government projects to make \$50B in student loan profit,” by David Jesse (via the Detroit Free Press),

USA Today, Published 3:03 a.m. ET June 16, 2013 Updated 8:37 a.m. ET June 16, 2013,

LINK: <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/2013/06/16/us-government-projected-to-make-record-50b-in-student-loan-profit/2427443/>

Archive: <https://Archive.vn/tQBWr>

Wayback: <https://Web.Archive.org/web/20130616120615/https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/2013/06/16/us-government-projected-to-make-record-50b-in-student-loan-profit/2427443/>

CWA2 Archive: https://ContractWithAmerica2.com/GovtProjects50B-dollar-StudentLoanProfit_viaArchiveToday.pdf

{{8}} QUOTE: “According to White House budget figures for fiscal 2011 ending in September, the federal government expects gross recovery of between \$1.10 and \$1.22 for every dollar of defaulted student loans. An estimated \$49.9 billion of Federal Family Education Loan and Federal Direct Lending Program loans are in default, out of a total \$713.4 billion outstanding, as of Sept. 30. Those amounts include only principal balances, not interest.” Source: “COLLEGE PLANNING: Government Sees High Returns On Defaulted Student Loans,” by Melissa Korn, *WSJ (The Wall Street Journal)*, Updated Jan. 4, 2011, 3:14 p.m. (EST),

LINK: <https://www.wsj.com/articles/SB10001424052748704723104576061953842079760>

Archive: <https://Archive.vn/yKQnH>

Wayback: <https://Web.Archive.org/web/20150508021128/https://www.wsj.com/articles/SB10001424052748704723104576061953842079760>

CWA2 Archive: https://ContractWithAmerica2.com/WSJ-returns-article_ArchiveToday.pdf

{{9}} QUOTE: “In 2010 the Department of Education reported collecting \$1.22 for every dollar in defaulted student loans it had guaranteed -and that’s after the sharks and their shareholders and the obligatory outright fraud had taken their first round of cuts.” Source: “Column: The student loan crisis that can’t be gotten rid of,” by Maureen “Moe” Tkacik (12 Minute Read), *REUTERS*, August 15, 2012:

LINK: <https://www.Reuters.com/article/us-student-loan-crisis/column-the-student-loan-crisis-that-cant-be-gotten-rid-of-idUSBRE87E13L20120815/>

Archive: <https://Archive.vn/x4gkq>

Wayback: <https://Web.Archive.org/web/20200704205750/https://www.Reuters.com/article/us-student-loan-crisis/column-the-student-loan-crisis-that-cant-be-gotten-rid-of-idUSBRE87E13L20120815>

CWA2 Archive: <https://ContractWithAmerica2.com/FannyDeregulation/StudentLoansCrisis-Tkacik-REUTERS-8-15-2012.pdf>

{{10}} QUOTE: “It is most disturbing, however, that recent analysis of the President’s Budget data reveals that even the US Department of Education, on average, recovers \$1.22 for every dollar paid out in default claims. Assuming generous collection costs, and even allowing for a nominal time value of money of a few percent (the governments cost of money is very low), it still appears that the federal government, even, is making a pretty penny from defaults.” Source: “Why College Prices Keep Rising,” by Alan Collinge, *FORBES*, (in Peter J. Reilly’s column), March 19, 2012:

LINK: <https://www.Forbes.com/sites/peterjreilly/2012/03/19/why-college-prices-keep-rising/>

Archive: <https://Archive.vn/VvZcJ>

Wayback: <https://Web.Archive.org/web/20200630152844/https://www.forbes.com/sites/peterjreilly/2012/03/19/why-college-prices-keep-rising>

CWA2 Archive: https://ContractWithAmerica2.com/FannyDeregulation/WhyCollegePricesKeepRising_Collinge_Reilly_FORBES-3-19-2012.pdf

But this won’t continue. Students—bled dry—can’t continue if loan originations aren’t cut—and this will result in the inevitable (but preventable) crash of the dollar.

Lee might make the excuse that such cuts would not pass with a Democrat-led Senate. But this is simply false: The House originates all spending, and could simply refuse to pass any budget unless these cuts are included—so RINO Lee is without excuse. Moreover, many current GOP lawmakers in both House & Senate were in office when the GOP held House, Senate, & Oval Office and have even LESS excuse. I’ve met Rep. Virginia Foxx, Chairwoman of House Education/Workforce Committee, and believe her intentions are pure (she kindly granted me an unscheduled interview{{11}} after a recent talk she gave at Lakeland’s *SEU*, hosted by mutual friend, Dennis Ross, a former member of Congress). So, I mean no disrespect to Dr. Foxx—but—like many current GOP lawmakers, she was in office in 2017 when Trump enjoyed GOP control of both chambers—but, like almost all GOP lawmakers—Foxx steadfastly refused to even try to obey GOP platform’s prohibitions against taxpayer-funded student loan spending. (Ironically, she was 1 of 3 coauthors to that platform!){3}}

{{3}} See reference “{{3}}” above.

{{11}} Rep Virginia Foxx, R-NC-05, visits SEU (Southeastern University) of Lakeland, FL, Mon. 13 Feb. 2023 for a talk sponsored by American Center for Political Leadership. The interview was at the very end of this video, and the cameraman

dropped the camera, so images are off, but she patiently let me interview her on 3 short, separate occasions at the very end. "Wait for it," as the saying goes. Video provided by *The Register*, which did news coverage:

YouTube: <https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=IPYOOsoOvvk>

Facebook: <https://www.Facebook.com/GordonWayneWatts/videos/751817552744598/>

Mirror-1: https://GordonWatts.com/FannyDeregulation/RepFoxx-at-SEU-Mon13Feb2023_MP4.mp4

Mirror-2: https://GordonWayneWatts.com/FannyDeregulation/RepFoxx-at-SEU-Mon13Feb2023_MP4.mp4

Mirror-3: https://ContractWithAmerica2.com/FannyDeregulation/RepFoxx-at-SEU-Mon13Feb2023_MP4.mp4

Wayback: http://Web.Archive.org/web/20230215002514/https://gordonwatts.com/FannyDeregulation/RepFoxx-at-SEU-Mon13Feb2023_MP4.mp4

Trump is equally guilty here: *Forbes* reports that "Trump Proposes Limits On Student Loan Borrowing,"^{[[12]]} but even when Trump had a Republican-led House and Senate, he didn't keep his word. So, where does that leave us?

^{[[12]]} "Trump Proposes Limits On Student Loan Borrowing," by Zack Friedman, *FORBES*, Tue. March 19, 2019,

LINK: <https://www.Forbes.com/sites/zackfriedman/2019/03/19/trump-proposes-limits-on-student-loans/>

Archive: <https://Archive.vn/Sa8n1>

Wayback: <https://Web.Archive.org/web/20210308132739/https://www.forbes.com/sites/zackfriedman/2019/03/19/trump-proposes-limits-on-student-loans/>

If even a fully GOP-controlled government didn't make this needed cut, then—shy of an UNLIKELY miracle—we WILL crash the dollar.^{[[13]]} Only one thing is likely to force down lending sufficient to avert disaster: All economists know that when borrowers have bankruptcy "defense" available, it curtails irresponsible lending, so restoration and reinstatement of bankruptcy availability to student debt is needed, and—ironically—this is required by the Democrat platform.^{[[14]]}

^{[[13]]} Well-documented and proved, courtesy *The Register*:

** <https://GordonWatts.com/#crash>

** <https://GordonWayneWatts.com/#crash>

** <https://Archive.vn/LUDWn#crash>

** <https://Web.Archive.org/web/20240513211014/https://gordonwatts.com/#crash>

^{[[14]]} QUOTE: On page 71 of the 2020 Democratic Party Platform, we see they clearly say that: "Democrats will also empower the CFPB to take action against exploitative lenders and will work with Congress to allow student debt to be discharged during bankruptcy." (p.72, par.1,sentence 2) [Editor's Note: This is page 72 of 92 of "PDF" page numbers, but the writer labels this as page "71," since there's a title page that offsets numbering by one.] Source: "2020Democratic Party Platform," used under Fair Use for commentary, criticism, and research. Editor's Note: This author could not find a more current version, that this 2020 version:

LINK: <https://Democrats.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/2020-Democratic-Party-Platform.pdf>

Archive-1: <https://Web.Archive.org/web/20220421223320/https://democrats.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/2020-Democratic-Party-Platform.pdf>

Archive-2: <https://Web.Archive.org/web/20220511165713/https://democrats.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/2020-Democratic-Party-Platform.pdf>

Archive-3: <https://ContractWithAmerica2.com/2020-Democratic-Party-Platform.pdf>

Do Lee & other GOP lawmakers not attempt these spending cuts because they are RINOS? Yes, that's part of it, but it can't *fully* explain their inaction: Therefore, Lee should immediately file legislation to reinstate bankruptcy to college debt, and—even more important than the effect it would have on Dept of Ed to “tamp down” excess student loan lending (which was NEVER needed in our grandparents' time, and isn't needed now)—this would “force back” greedy higher ed lobbyists, who would see the “handwriting on the wall” & realize that lending will go down anyhow, thus “back off” & allow spending cuts to pass without threats to cut off campaign contributions.

Trump & many GOP lawmakers who oppose reinstatement of bankruptcy as a Conservative Free Market “check” on irresponsibly excess lending want it for themselves, but would deny students. Trump—who's gotten repeated bankruptcy discharge for billions—holds a “bankruptcy for me, but not for thee” double standard, violating the “golden rule” of his claimed religion, Christianity.{{15}} If Trump & Lee are truly Christians as they claim (are they?), they won't deny students the same “defense” they want for themselves.

{{15}} JUDAISM: Leviticus 19:18b, Leviticus 19:34, The Golden Rule, OLD TESTAMENT (PENTATEUCH)

CHRISTIANITY: Matthew 22:39b, Mark 12:31b, Luke 6:31, Matthew 7:12, The Golden Rule, NEW TESTAMENT (HOLY BIBLE) – Editor's Note: Christians also accept the writings of Moses as Canon Scripture aka “real” Bible.

But—strictly-speaking—border funding security & other needs won't happen without needed cuts to pork spending, so Lee needs to file legislation to reinstate bankruptcy (like it was in our grandparents' time, when the system had needed “checks” & “balances”), following up with student loan cuts (preferably directly funding higher ed WITHOUT “student loans”—a system that works just fine for 5TH graders—and would cost taxpayers less too, as the colleges would be forced to “live within their budget” & avoid trillions in bloat). Or else admit she's a tax/spend RINO and resign.

That brings me up to my last point—a solution: Many “old timers” who got college for \$100/semester (about \$1,000 in today's money) tell students to “shut up & pay your bills” (even though many have repaid far more than borrowed—and this even at illegally-inflated costs of tuition){{16}}, but fail to hold lawmakers accountable—those who actually CAN make the needed spending cuts.

{{16}} See footnotes 7—10, above, or see e.g., <https://contractwithamerica2.com/#PaidInFull> for a fuller explanation.

Instead of complaining to young, powerless students, who can't fix a problem they didn't create, you need to call your Member of Congress and U.S. Senator, demanding they enact these spending cuts. In fact, I personally know both Jennifer Barbosa (the brilliant Ukrainian-American paralegal who challenged Adam Schiff for his seat) and James Judge (U.S. Coast Guard veteran who served in Iraq & Afghanistan)—who are running against Lee in the Dist.15 GOP primary, and—after having interviewed both{{17}}, can assure you both are genuine Conservatives who support both of these initiatives and would be good for Democrats (who want basic standard consumer protections for college loans—like even rich colleges, who take our tax dollars—have) and would eliminate the Dept. of Education. Although I didn't ask them, I'm guessing they'd be open to direct funding higher ed—to save both students & taxpayers. AND AVOID A PREVENTABLE CRASH OF THE DOLLAR AND DEVALUATION OF ALL MONIES IN YOUR BANK ACCOUNT DUE TO INCESSANT PRINTING!

{{17}} “POLITICS -- Candidates: Jen Barbosa, James Judge, Pat Kemp, Laurel Lee – Central Florida's Dist.15 Congressional Race Heating Up,” by Gordon Wayne Watts, *The Register*, Thursday, June 20, 2024, LINKS:

** <https://gordonwatts.com/#Congress2024>

** <https://gordonwaynewatts.com/#Congress2024>

** <https://Archive.vn/LUDWn#Congress2024>

** <https://Web.Archive.org/web/20240513211014/https://gordonwatts.com/#Congress2024>

Balletopedia reports that “Congressional incumbents had a 98% win rate. Forty-one states had a 100% win rate in congressional races.”^{[[18]]}

^{[[18]]} Balletopedia LINK: https://Ballotpedia.org/Election_results,_2022:_Incumbent_win_rates_by_state

Archive: <https://Archive.ph/i8aKy>

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^{[[19]]} “AMERICANS’ DISMAL VIEWS OF THE NATION’S POLITICS: 3. How Americans view Congress, the president, state and local political leaders,” REPORT, *Pew Research Center*, September 19, 2023, LINK: <https://www.PewResearch.org/politics/2023/09/19/how-americans-view-congress-the-president-state-and-local-political-leaders/>

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OPINION | Guest Column

Gordon Wayne Watts

Times wrong to endorse RINO Laurel Lee

Lee doesn't represent either Republicans or Democrats (only donors), but the problem is more widespread than one lawmaker –threatening even to crash the Dollar



"Crash of the Dollar" Meme from Gordon Wayne Watts. [Provided]

Published Sunday, July 28, 2024

The Times recently published a fine piece by Richard Williams ["Let's Start Shunning Liars," July 5], which called for a "Biblical Solution." Right! Well, other than—say—WW3 or another Pandemic, a crash of the dollar is the worst threat we face, so we must "return to a place of beginnings" if we are to survive.

In its Oct. 13, 2022 Editorial Board recommendations, *The Times* endorsed Laurel Lee, Republican, over Alan Cohn, Democrat, for the Dist. 15 Congressional race. This even in spite of *The Times* knowing full well that her campaign contributions were from the elite, rich, at least \$1 million from a political committee associated with her husband. ["Who's boosting Laurel Lee's campaign contributions for Congress," William March, July 24, 2022]. ("Follow the money," they say!)



Gordon W. Watts [Provided]

In my few requests for help from Graham Brink, Jim Verhult, and Sheri Day, by phone, email, or text, respectively, all 3 promptly responded to help with technical questions on submitting letters & columns, and I'm confident that all *Times* staff have good intentions, so I mean no disrespect, but—bluntly put—*The Times* lied when it said that Lee was more qualified—and is in need of a “Biblical Solution,” so here's my response:

I knew Lee was a RINO (Republican in Name Only) early on and voted for Cohn, but *The Times* confirmed this when it reported that: “The two also agreed on the need for border security, with Cohn saying there needed to be a bipartisan solution to the waves of immigrants entering the U.S.” [“3 takeaways from Laurel Lee, Alan Cohn debate for Florida’s 15th District,” Romy Ellenbogen, Oct. 22, 2022] However, that's the least of Lee's problems.

I'm sure no one will forget my recent letter to *The Ledger* [“Trump's flip-flop back RINO Laurel Lee,” Sunday, June 30, 2024]—least of all Trump or Lee! But their 200-word limit doesn't do justice to the magnitude of Lee's dangerous behavior, so a column (perhaps several!) are needed to address it: as my letter informs readers, Lee never responded to our press inquiry asking her to cut our budget's largest pork, as our GOP Platform requires. “The federal government should not be in the business of originating student loans.” Student debt—at over \$2 Trillion—is almost ten percent of total U.S. Debt (the LARGEST discretionary “pork” in the budget!), which is now over \$34 Trillion—growing by \$1 trillion every 90—100 days. Student Debt is only overshadowed by “mandatory spending” giants, like Defense and Social Security!

That Lee won't file legislation to STOP spending MY tax dollars to originate (make) student loans is “the tell”: She's a RINO who doesn't represent her Conservative base, disloyal to our GOP Platform—in a word, a liar. Besides her absentee record of missing many key votes, *FreedomIndex* gives her a score of 53 for adherence to The Constitution (limited government, fiscal responsibility, etc.).

By contrast, Matt Gaetz is ranked 85, Anna Paulina Luna, 96, and Scott Franklin, another RINO—who also refused to attempt such spending cuts when he was my congressman—ranked at only 70. I don't mean disrespect to Lee, and know she has a stellar reputation for showing respect to others (and her staff are always respectful & attentive to me when I call to express my legislative opinions). But I didn't hire her for a \$200 grand/year job to just be nice: She has a job to do—and refuses! Presumably because lobbyists, who benefit when taxpayers are raped in the Trillions, benefit!

It's actually worse: As long as I can remember—ere the beginning of time—almost ZERO GOP lawmakers have even TRIED to obey our platform—as *The Register's* own investigation shows, only 8.14% of all GOP lawmakers have even made feeble attempts to obey our platform (or 0.00% when you don't consider H.R.899, to eliminate the Dept of Ed, be this bill has no chance of passing). *OpenTheBooks*, a Conservative watchdog, confirms our fears: They found that the GOP-led "Freedom Caucus" earmarked far more than the Democrat-led "Squad" (\$23.1 million/member vs. \$13.9 million for the average Squad member), spending like drunken sailors. (My apologies to all drunken sailors—for my ill comparison to GOP lawmakers!)

USA Today reports taxpayers have made a huge profit from students, and multiple other sources confirm that, indeed, students have overpaid taxpayers ("US Department of Education, on average, recovers \$1.22 for every dollar paid out in default claims," *Forbes*). (This makes a good case for "forgiveness," but that isn't a long-term solution, and would only free some debt slaves without abolishing debt slavery. PPP recipients—by contrast—haven't repaid anything—and with our dire shortage of doctors & nurses, students can't be blamed for going to college, no matter the costs—but that's a matter for another column.)

But this won't continue. Students—bled dry—can't continue if loan originations aren't cut—and this will result in the inevitable (but preventable) crash of the dollar.

Lee might make the excuse that such cuts would not pass with a Democrat-led Senate. But this is simply false: The House originates all spending, and could simply refuse to pass any budget unless these cuts are included—so RINO Lee is without excuse. Moreover, many current GOP lawmakers in both House & Senate were in office when the GOP held House, Senate, & Oval Office and have even LESS excuse. I've met Rep. Virginia Foxx, Chairwoman of House Education/Workforce Committee, and believe her intentions are pure (she kindly granted me an unscheduled interview after a recent talk she gave at Lakeland's *SEU*, hosted by mutual friend, Dennis Ross, a former member of Congress). So, I mean no disrespect to Dr. Foxx—but—like many current GOP lawmakers, she was in office in 2017 when Trump enjoyed GOP control of both chambers—but, like almost all GOP lawmakers—Foxx steadfastly refused to even try to obey GOP platform's prohibitions against taxpayer-funded student loan spending. (Ironically, she was 1 of 3 coauthors to that platform!)

Trump is equally guilty here: *Forbes* reports that "Trump Proposes Limits On Student Loan Borrowing," but even when Trump had a Republican-led House and Senate, he didn't keep his word. So, where does that leave us?

If even a fully GOP-controlled government didn't make this needed cut, then—shy of an UNLIKELY miracle—we WILL crash the dollar. Only one thing is likely to force down lending sufficient to avert disaster: All economists know that when borrowers have bankruptcy "defense" available, it curtails irresponsible lending, so restoration and reinstatement of bankruptcy availability to student debt is needed, and—ironically—this is required by the Democrat platform.

Do Lee & other GOP lawmakers not attempt these spending cuts because they are RINOS? Yes, that's part of it, but it can't *fully* explain their inaction: Therefore, Lee should immediately file legislation to reinstate bankruptcy to college debt, and—even more important than the effect it would have on Dept of Ed to "tamp down" excess student loan lending (which was NEVER needed in our grandparents' time, and isn't needed now)—this would "force back" greedy higher ed lobbyists, who would see the "handwriting on the wall" & realize that lending will go down anyhow, thus "back off" & allow spending cuts to pass without threats to cut off campaign contributions.

Trump & many GOP lawmakers who oppose reinstatement of bankruptcy as a Conservative Free Market "check" on irresponsibly excess lending want it for themselves, but would deny students. Trump—who's gotten repeated bankruptcy discharge for billions—holds a "bankruptcy for me, but not for thee" double standard, violating the "golden rule" of his claimed religion, Christianity. If Trump & Lee are truly Christians as they claim (are they?), they won't deny students the same "defense" they want for themselves.

But—strictly-speaking—border funding security & other needs won't happen without needed cuts to pork spending, so Lee needs to file legislation to reinstate bankruptcy (like it was in our grandparents' time, when the system had needed "checks" & "balances"), following up with student loan cuts (preferably directly funding higher ed WITHOUT "student

loans”—a system that works just fine for 5TH graders—and would cost taxpayers less too, as the colleges would be forced to “live within their budget” & avoid trillions in bloat). Or else admit she's a tax/spend RINO and resign.

That brings me up to my last point—a solution: Many “old timers” who got college for \$100/semester (about \$1,000 in today's money) tell students to “shut up & pay your bills” (even though many have repaid far more than borrowed—and this even at illegally-inflated costs of tuition), but fail to hold lawmakers accountable—those who actually CAN make the needed spending cuts.

Instead of complaining to young, powerless students, who can't fix a problem they didn't create, you need to call your Member of Congress and U.S. Senator, demanding they enact these spending cuts. In fact, I personally know both Jennifer Barbosa (the brilliant Ukrainian-American paralegal who challenged Adam Schiff for his seat) and James Judge (U.S. Coast Guard veteran who served in Iraq & Afghanistan)—who are running against Lee in the Dist.15 GOP primary, and—after having interviewed both, can assure you both are genuine Conservatives who support both of these initiatives and would be good for Democrats (who want basic standard consumer protections for college loans—like even rich colleges, who take our tax dollars—have) and would eliminate the Dept. of Education. Although I didn't ask them, I'm guessing they'd be open to direct funding higher ed—to save both students & taxpayers. **AND AVOID A PREVENTABLE CRASH OF THE DOLLAR AND DEVALUATION OF ALL MONIES IN YOUR BANK ACCOUNT DUE TO INCESSANT PRINTING!**

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