

Although I do believe amending the bankruptcy code to allow for discharge of student loans would alleviate the problem of student loan debt, I feel that it would take Congress not only a long time to pass, but it would be a bit of a problem to propose to them. Mentioned on Time Business, the government is “the backer on those loans (and therefore would be out the cash)”, meaning that providing a program in which they will lose money doesn’t seem ideal. In addition, federal loans have a lot of options for repayment such as Income Based Repayment and loan forgiveness programs. While allowing discharge for the loans would have many positive impacts, it might not be realistic as the student loan debt crisis grows.

An initial solution to decrease the amount of student loan debt would be to suggest attending community college or technical colleges. Most colleges of those sorts have lower tuition rates and financial burdens. In fact, according to College Tuition Compare, tuition for Gateway Technical College (specifically the Kenosha campus) is found to be \$4,369 (out of state) and \$6,352 (in state), whereas the college I’ll attend in the fall, Carroll University, has a tuition amount of \$31,162 per year for both out of state students and in-state students. In addition, classes are more flexible and available than universities and have smaller student sizes. Since they cost less, you’d also have the opportunity to explore other major options and have the chance to focus on that specific program. Some students even take their general education courses, or gen eds, at junior colleges so they do not waste time while they’re pursuing their studies for their potential major.

With every good idea, there are negative aspects. Since community colleges or technical colleges usually have two years or less programs, obtaining a 4 year degree or Bachelor’s degree is almost nearly impossible, making transfers inevitable. Furthermore, since the campuses are typically smaller, there would be less student involvement. Also, most junior colleges do not offer food plans or dorming, so commuting or living with someone else would be important to consider.

Besides attending technical/community colleges, there’s also the option of going into careers that will pay you and for your education. For example, according to CNBC, “AT&T employees can receive up to \$8,000 in tuition assistance annually, with a lifetime cap of \$25,000 for undergraduate costs and \$30,000 for graduate costs”.

One of the most known ways to pay for college is applying and receiving scholarships. There are many to apply for and they can range from \$100 to full ride tuition. Most scholarships have eligibility rules or they are general and every student can apply to them. However, some do not. There are some high school seniors that don’t even apply for the FAFSA. According to Fastweb, there was “over \$2.9 billion in free college money unclaimed by students” in 2015. Some students become discouraged because when they apply for a few scholarships, they are not awarded them and do not apply to more. I can somewhat relate, but while I was discouraged, I’m

still determined and persistent to apply for as many scholarships as I can to pay for my education.