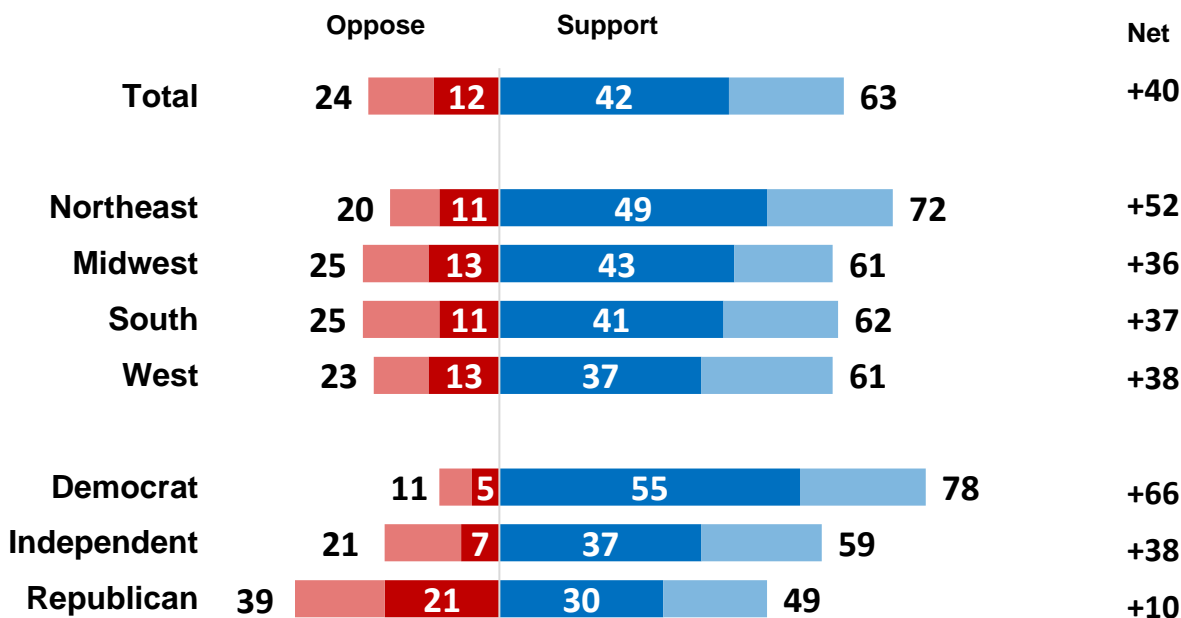| To:	Interested Parties
From:	Celinda Lake, Bob Carpenter, David Mermin, Emily Garner
Re:	New Data Shows Strong Support for Student Loan Debt Reduction
Date:	May 12, 2020

A majority of Americans across all regions of the US support permanently reducing student loan debt by $20,000 for all borrowers, according to a new bipartisan poll by Lake Research Partners and Chesapeake Beach Consulting.

Lake Research Partners and Chesapeake Beach Consulting designed this nationwide survey, which was administered by Engine Insight's CARAVAN omnibus.[1]

Americans support reducing student loan debt by $20,000 for all borrowers[2]

➤ Over six in ten Americans (63%) support permanently reducing student loan debt by $20,000 during the coronavirus crisis, including 42% who do so strongly. Over six in ten support the policy in all regions of the US. Support is strongest in the Northeast (71%).

➤ While Democrats are most enthusiastic about the policy (78% support; 55% strong support), independents (59% support) and Republicans (49% support) are also net favorable. Among independents, support outweighs opposition three to one.

Reducing Student Loan Debt by $20,000

	Oppose	Support	Net
Total	24 — 12	42 — 63	**+40**
Northeast	20 — 11	49 — 72	**+52**
Midwest	25 — 13	43 — 61	**+36**
South	25 — 11	41 — 62	**+37**
West	23 — 13	37 — 61	**+38**
Democrat	11 — 5	55 — 78	**+66**
Independent	21 — 7	37 — 59	**+38**
Republican	39 — 21	30 — 49	**+10**

Lake Research Partners
1101 17th Street NW,
Suite 301
Washington, DC 20036

Tel: 202.776.9066
Fax: 202.776.9074

Partners
Celinda Lake
Alysia Snell
David Mermin
Dr. Robert G. Meadow
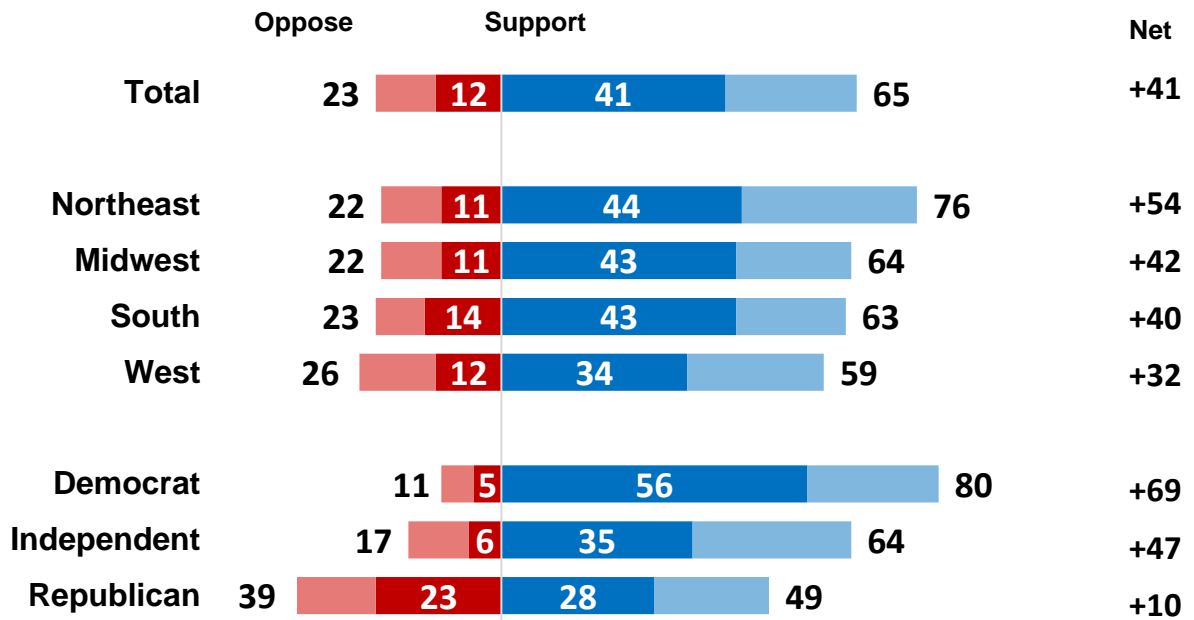Daniel Gotoff
Joshua Ulibarri
Jonathan Voss

[1] Lake Research Partners and Chesapeake Beach Consulting designed this survey which was conducted by Engine Insight's CARAVAN between April 15-17, 2020 online. The survey reached a total of 1,004 adults nationwide. Data were weighted slightly by age, gender, region, race and education. The margin for error is +/- 3.1% and larger for subgroups.

[2] Q 9/10d (combined split sample). Some lawmakers in Congress have proposed enacting new consumer protections for the duration of the coronavirus crisis [as a way of preventing lenders from taking advantage of borrowers and relieving financial pressure on individuals]. Please indicate whether you support or oppose each of the proposals below: Reducing student loan debt by $20,000 for all borrowers.

Support for student loan debt reduction increases after engaged debate[3]

➤ After Americans hear arguments both in favor of and against student loan debt reduction, support for reducing student loans by *at least* $20,000 remains robust across all regions of the US, with net support increasing in the Northeast, South, and Midwest.

➤ Support also holds steady across party, increasing by five points among independents (64%).

Reducing Student Loan Debt by *At Least* $20,000

	Oppose		Support		Net
Total	23	12	41	65	**+41**
Northeast	22	11	44	76	**+54**
Midwest	22	11	43	64	**+42**
South	23	14	43	63	**+40**
West	26	12	34	59	**+32**
Democrat	11	5	56	80	**+69**
Independent	17	6	35	64	**+47**
Republican	39	23	28	49	**+10**

***

Please feel free to contact Celinda Lake (clake@lakeresearch.com) or David Mermin (dmermin@lakeresearch.com) at 202-776-9066, or Bob Carpenter (bobcarpenter1957@gmail.com) for additional information about this research.

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[3] Q 13 SSA. As you may have heard, student loan debt has been part of the government's pandemic relief efforts, and payments are currently being paused during the national emergency. Some people say short-term payment relief is not sufficient, and have proposed reducing student loan debt by at least $20,000 for all borrowers to help jump start the economy in the next relief package. Other people say we can't afford to cancel that much debt and should use the money in other ways. Do you support or oppose the reduction of at least $20,000 in student loan debt for all borrowers?