

Amy Schmidt's Testimony:

“My name is Amy Schmidt and I am a graduate of the University of Southern California

As a freelance writer, I often juggle multiple, temporary part time jobs just to make ends meet but having an affinity group discounts available to me as an alumni of SC is critical to ensuring that I am able to afford my car insurance, which is necessary when I spend a large part of my day going from place to place

These proposed regulations were drafted in an attempt at ‘leveling the playing field’ when it comes to who qualifies for affinity group discounts--but they’re only narrowing the scope and prioritizing affiliated groups instead of creating more awareness and access. When a large part of the population with college degrees has student loan payments that they need to make every month on entry-level salaries and gig pay, something like an affinity group discount barely brings us back to a comfortable place.

I am an alumni and my college degree does afford me the privilege of qualifying for this discount--but having a college degree in 2020 doesn’t necessarily equate to sustainable income. This discount matters to me and countless college graduates who often live with three-four other people just to make ends meet.

Instead of shrinking the availability of services, we educated more people about how to use them. Equalizing the playing field means giving everyone a chance at bat, not taking away the bat entirely.”