



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF  
GRADUATE-PROFESSIONAL  
STUDENTS

## PRESS RELEASE

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### NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF GRADUATE-PROFESSIONAL STUDENTS LAUNCHES CAMPAIGN TO HIGHLIGHT GRADUATE STUDENT LOAN DEBTS

[Washington, D.C.] – Today, the National Association of Graduate-Professional Students (NAGPS) launched a new campaign, “Grads Have Debt 2”, to highlight the rising debt and student loan problems for graduate and professional students. The campaign corresponds to recent Congressional action related to student loans after undergraduate student loan rates on Stafford loans doubled from 3.4% to 6.8%- the rate currently paid on most graduate student loans. As a result, many student loan proposals have been put forth in Congress that also affect and propose to increase graduate student loan rates.

The campaign encourages graduate and professional students to express their concerns and stories related to their debt troubles to Congress, and urge for lower rates for all students. “We stand in solidarity with our undergraduate student colleagues to push for student loan solutions- but these solutions must be for both undergraduate and graduate students. Our campaign gives graduate and professional students a voice in the debate and an opportunity to talk about the crippling effect of debt on our nation’s students and their families,” stated Meredith Niles, Director of Legislative Affairs for NAGPS.

The average undergraduate debt is nearly \$24,000 while debt for a doctoral degree is an additional \$52,000 and nearly \$80,000 for professional degrees. Graduate and professional students often still have debt from their undergraduate degrees and some face additional economic burdens because they have families. The debt accrued by all students is hindering a strong economic recovery for our country, as students and young professionals delay decisions like purchasing a home, new car, or saving for retirement. NAGPS urges Congress to come to a bipartisan solution that does not raise student loan rates for ANY students.

Visit the “Grads Have Debt 2” Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/GradsHaveDebt2](http://www.facebook.com/GradsHaveDebt2)) to read what graduate and professional students from across the country have to say about their personal debt struggles.

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Founded in 1987, the National Association of Graduate-Professional Students (NAGPS) is a completely volunteer, student-run, national non-profit organization that represents more than 600,000 graduate and professional students at over 90 institutions across the United States. NAGPS sustains a member network that connects graduate and professional students, shares resources, provides benefits and training, and advocates at the state, regional and national level to give a voice to all graduate and professional students.

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