

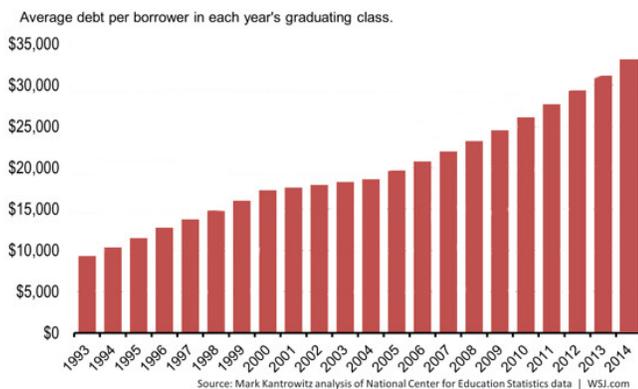
THE REIGNITING OPPORTUNITY FOR INNOVATORS (ROI) ACT OF 2017

THE PROBLEM

Student loan debt is preventing the next generation of entrepreneurs from starting innovative businesses.

- New businesses have historically been the top job creators in the country.
- But student loans are an obstacle for young entrepreneurs who want to start new and innovative businesses.

Students are taking on more debt

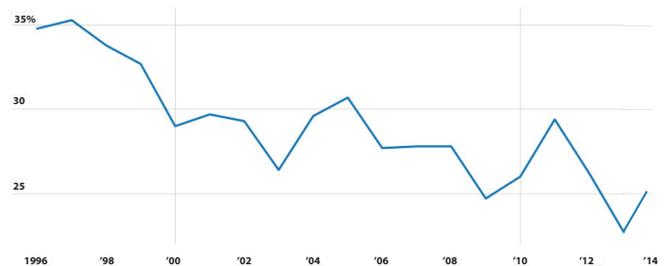


Some of the ways student debt affects potential entrepreneurs include:

- Decreasing their cash flow;
- Hurting a potential entrepreneur's ability to build equity;
- Negatively affecting the potential entrepreneur's credit scores and ability to secure financing.

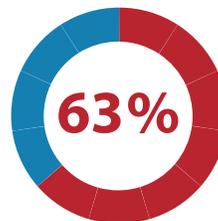
As student debt levels have risen, entrepreneurship rates among young people have declined

A *New York Times* report highlighted that "for young entrepreneurs, college debts can snuff out start-up hopes."

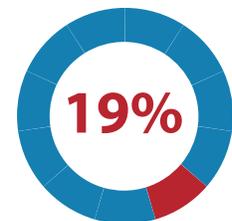


The percentage of new entrepreneurs between 20-34 years old fell to 25 percent in 2014, down from almost 35 percent in 1996

Many young people are delaying starting new businesses because of their student loans.



Gallup found that between 2006 – 2015, 63 percent of college graduates left school with some amount of student loan debt



Of those, 19 percent say they have delayed starting a business due to their loan debt

In 2015, New Hampshire had the highest average student loan debt in the country.

THE LEGISLATION

The Reigniting Opportunity for Innovators (ROI) Act provides the relief necessary for young entrepreneurs to start up and grow innovative small businesses.

Founders and full-time employees of certified small business start-ups will be eligible to have their federal student loan payments and interest accrual deferred for up to 3 years while launching a start-up.

If the start-up is located in an economically distressed area, founders and employees will also be eligible for cancellation of up to \$20,000 in student loans.

These common-sense steps will help free young entrepreneurs to take the risks necessary to build innovative businesses that will create good-paying jobs, help revitalize struggling communities, and drive our 21st century economy.

MAGGIE HASSAN
U.S. SENATOR FOR NEW HAMPSHIRE