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Student debt must be addressed in the election

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Dr. Aldemaro Romero Jr.  
Letters from Academia

One of the major challenges facing higher education in this country is that it is a profit-oriented business. We have a system where there is a tuition increase every year. If your child is at a private university, it is truly a tuition increase. Their claim is that their cost of living is up, yet tuition is rising. Is that not true today? We have a system where the average student at a public university is carrying a $30,000 or $40,000 debt, and that's just at American universities. And if your child is at a private university, it's even more expensive. The average student at a private university is carrying a $100,000 or $150,000 debt. If that's not true today, what is true? What is the main justification that is given to the public is that they are providing a service and that they need to make a profit. If there was a profit motive, we would have a free market system where students would choose the university that meets their needs and budgets. But today, we have a system where the market is dictated by the university, and not the student. This is a major problem.

In conclusion, it is clear that the current system of higher education in the United States is not working for the majority of students. We need a new approach that prioritizes the needs of students and provides accessible, affordable, and high-quality education. This can be achieved through a combination of policy changes, such as federal student aid programs, changes to the fee structure, and increased transparency and accountability. It is time for us to come together and demand a system of higher education that truly serves the needs of all students.