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1 2	DAVID C. SHONKA Acting General Counsel	
3	SARAH SCHROEDER, Cal. Bar No. 221528 ROBERTA TONELLI, Cal. Bar No. 278738 EVAN ROSE, Cal. Bar No. 253478 Federal Trade Commission 901 Market Street, Suite 570 San Francisco, CA 94103 sschroeder@ftc.gov, rtonelli@ftc.gov, erose@ftc.gov Tel: (415) 848-5100; Fax: (415) 848-5184	
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9	UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA	
10	OAKLAND DIVISION	
11		
12	FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION,	Case No. 4:18-cv-00806-SBA
13	Plaintiff,	DECLARATION OF CHELSEA
14		OLDS IN SUPPORT OF FEDERAL
15	VS.	TRADE COMMISSION'S MOTION FOR PRELIMINARY INJUNCTION
16	AMERICAN FINANCIAL BENEFITS CENTER, a corporation, also d/b/a AFB and AF	
17	STUDENT SERVICES;	
18	AMERITECH FINANCIAL, a corporation;	
19	FINANCIAL EDUCATION BENEFITS	
20	CENTER, a corporation; and	
21	BRANDON DEMOND FRERE, individually and as an officer of AMERICAN FINANCIAL	
22	BENEFITS CENTER, AMERITECH	
23	FINANCIAL, and FINANCIAL EDUCATION BENEFITS CENTER,	
24	Defendants.	
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27		
28		
20	DECLARATION OF CHELSEA OLDS IN SUPPORT OF FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION'S MOTION FOR PRELIMINARY INJUNCTION 4:18-CV-00806-SBA	

DECLARATION OF CHELSEA OLDS

1. My name is Chelsea Olds. I am a recent graduate who works as an occupational therapy assistant for a private health care company. The following statements are within my personal knowledge and if called as a witness I could and would competently testify thereto.

2. In 2015, I graduated from college. I had a student loan of approximately \$35,000 with Nelnet, one of the federal government's loan servicers. In 2016, I received a text message on my phone stating that I qualified for student loan forgiveness. I assumed the text message was from the federal government because it owned my loan and was the only entity that could change my loan terms. I was busy, so my mom called the number listed on the text message on my behalf. My mom told me that the person she spoke with said he could lower my monthly student loan payment. It sounded good, so my mom asked for more information.

3. On September 1, 2016, I received an email from Alayna Miley, an account specialist at AmeriTech Financial ("AmeriTech"). Ms. Miley said my new loan payment would be \$255 for one month, then drop down to \$235 for six months, and then be \$99 per month for the remainder of my loan term, which was 25 years. These amounts were less than my current loan payment so I agreed to refinance my student loan. Ms. Miley's email also referenced the federal loan forgiveness programs and included a link to a speech by President Obama, further convincing me that I was signing up for a federal program that would lower my monthly loan payment. A true and correct copy of the email I received from Ms. Miley on September 1, 2016, with my personal information redacted, is attached as **Olds Attachment A**.

4. Ms. Miley sent me a lot of documents via email, which I signed electronically.
Shortly after I signed the documents, AmeriTech began withdrawing funds directly from my checking account every month. I believed these payments were going towards my student loan balance. I periodically received emails from AmeriTech asking me for personal and financial information.

5. In June or July 2017, I received an email from Nelnet stating that I had a payment coming due for my student loan. I was confused because I thought I was making loan payments through AmeriTech. I emailed Nelnet and AmeriTech for more information. A few weeks later,

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I received a second email from Nelnet stating I was past due on my loan payment. I called Nelnet and told the agent I was making loan payments through AmeriTech. The Nelnet agent told me that Nelnet had not received any payments from AmeriTech for my loan. She said my loan "had never been touched." I was shocked.

6. After I spoke with the Nelnet representative, I called AmeriTech. The agent I spoke with told me that AmeriTech just handled paperwork for loans. I would never have paid AmeriTech so much money if I knew it was simply preparing paperwork that I could do myself. AmeriTech did not clearly explain to me what it was selling.

7. After I learned that AmeriTech had not been making my loan payments, I was very upset. In July 2017, I filed a complaint with the Better Business Bureau. My complaint stated: "I started paying my student loans through AmeriTech Financial because they said it was a student loan forgiveness. I've been paying them for 9 months and they have not paid [the] money towards my actual loan at all. My loan is still the same as when I began paying them. I would like a refund for all the money I paid into thinking that it was actually going towards my overall student loan."

8. I paid AmeriTech approximately \$1,800 that I could have used for my student loan. In addition, my loan amount increased because interest accrued during the time I thought AmeriTech was making my monthly loan payments. When I contacted AmeriTech, my loan balance was approximately \$29,283. Now my loan balance is approximately \$30,429. My loan has not gone down at all. AmeriTech has not refunded my money.

9. My experience with AmeriTech has caused me lots of stress. I realize now that the company played on words, such as calling everything the "program," and that was how they got me. AmeriTech made it seem like it was handling my loan, but it did not make a single payment. I would never have paid \$99 a month for 25 years just for help with paperwork.

10.I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct. Executedon August 22, 2017 in Ripley, Tennessee. $\bigwedge \bigwedge \bigwedge \bigwedge \bigwedge \bigwedge$

Chelsea Olds, Declarant

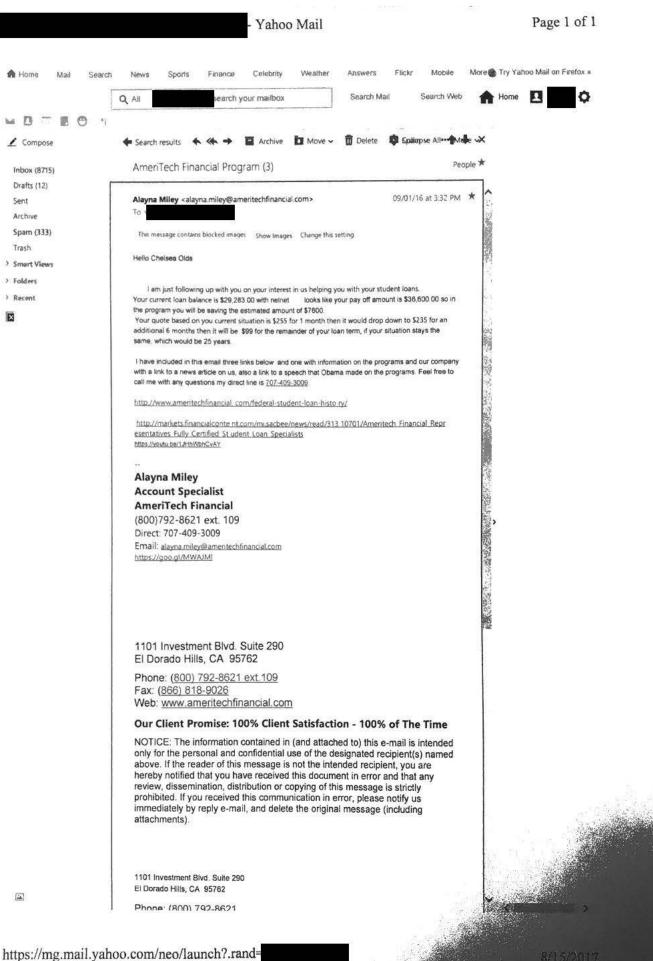
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Olds Attachment A

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Olds Attachment A