

July 9, 2014

The Honorable John Kline
Chairman
U.S. House Committee on Education and the Workforce
2181 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Kline,

On behalf of the undersigned higher education associations, we write regarding H.R. 4983, the *Strengthening Transparency in Higher Education Act*; H.R. 3136, the *Advancing Competency-Based Education Demonstration Project Act*, and H.R. 4984, the *Empowering Students through Enhanced Financial Counseling Act*. This package of bills represents a welcome step towards reauthorization of the Higher Education Act (HEA).

Our members are encouraged by the Committee's emphasis on streamlining and simplifying the ways students and their families learn about and make decisions regarding their higher education options. We agree with the sponsors of these bills that providing students with clear, comprehensive and actionable information in a focused way will lead to better choices for students and their families, and result in better outcomes for all stakeholders.

While we have specific concerns with several aspects of these bills, we recognize that this is the beginning of a process, and that changes are likely to be made as the legislation moves forward. For example, we believe that institutional graduation rate calculations and other data outlined in H.R. 4893 need to be modified to accurately reflect the diversity of American colleges and universities. Similarly, we strongly support your goal of ensuring that students fully understand their educational debt and their overall student aid packaging, but are concerned that some of the provisions in H.R. 4984 might add to complexity rather than reduce it.

These observations do not detract from our desire to see this legislation advance. We appreciate the willingness of the Committee to solicit feedback, and will be very pleased to work with you as reauthorization of the HEA moves forward.

Sincerely,



Molly Corbett Broad
President

HEA Legislation Letter
July 9, 2014

MCB/ldw

On behalf of:

American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers
American Association of Community Colleges
American Association of State Colleges and Universities
American Council on Education
Association of American Universities
Association of Community College Trustees
Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges
Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities
Association of Public and Land-grant Universities
Council for Christian Colleges & Universities
Council for Opportunity in Education
Council of Graduate Schools
EDUCAUSE
Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities
National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities
National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators
UNCF