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July 16, 2014

The Honorable John Kline
Chairman, House Committee on Education and the Workforce
2439 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Kline:

Speaking on behalf of the over 60,000 active duty service members, veterans, and their families who currently are enrolled at American Military University (AMU), I want to commend you for your continuing leadership in your role as Chairman of the House Committee on Education and the Workforce. There certainly are few more noble causes than that of supporting those who, like yourself, have risked their lives and personal welfare in defense of our Nation.

I was especially pleased with your comments in opposition to amendments in the context of the Committee's mark-up of H.R. 3136, and specifically your strong objection to the amendment proposed by Rep. Davis to include TA and VA funds in the so-called "90/10" formula. There are a number of very sound reasons why Congress historically has not included TA and VA funds in the 90/10 calculation, including the fact that those funds are earned benefits and not financial aid – regardless of their source. No different than Social Security benefits, recipients should not be inhibited from using them as they choose. That said, it is clear that you understand better than many that one of the consequence of changing that formula as Rep. Davis proposes would be to restrict educational opportunities for our historical student population, or increase their costs simply to accommodate an ill-advised and unsound government policy.

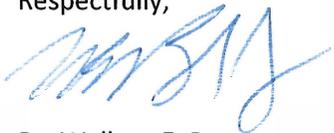
As you would expect, I also take strong exception to the premise implied in Rep. Davis' assertion that the formula was intended to "prevent for-profits from preying on veterans and their families." As a market-funded institution that was founded by a retired Marine Corps major 23 years ago specifically to serve his comrades-in-arms and their families, AMU has never been viewed by our students as predatory, and I am very concerned when our historical mission is misconstrued on the basis of a funding model. And as a practical matter, there is little evidence to support the notion that the formula has served to reflect any meaningful correlation between where TA and VA recipients invest their

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funding model. And as a practical matter, there is little evidence to support the notion that the formula has served to reflect any meaningful correlation between where TA and VA recipients invest their benefits and the quality of the institutions they attend. The so-called "skin-in-the-game" premise is not supported by sound research, and that lack of support applies as well in the case of non-profit institutions to which the formula does not apply.

You and I are scheduled to meet later this month, and I sincerely welcome that prospect. Meanwhile, please accept my heartfelt gratitude for your willingness to promote sound educational policies and resist those that are not.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "W. Boston", is written over the word "Respectfully,".

Dr. Wallace E. Boston
President and CEO
American Public University System