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May 15, 2013

The Honorable John Kline
Chair, Education and the Workforce
Committee
United States House of Representatives
2181 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable George Miller
Ranking Member, Education and the
Workforce Committee
United States House of Representatives
2181 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Kline and Ranking Member Miller:

On behalf of the members of Business Roundtable – an association of chief executive officers of leading U.S. companies with more than \$7.3 trillion in annual revenues and nearly 16 million employees– we want to express our support for the passage of HR 1949, the “Investigating Postsecondary Education Data for Students Act.”

The Business Roundtable strongly believes that students and families deserve the best possible information about all aspects of higher education – particularly with regard to the financial costs of pursuing various types of post-secondary education and the possible expectations that are associated with obtaining a degree.

The Business Roundtable is pleased to see that HR 1949 proposes a study by an appointed Advisory Committee to review the type of information that should be gathered from colleges and universities on student outcomes, including data on costs and post-graduation earnings. Furthermore, we believe that it is important for the Advisory Committee to identify ways in which this information can be reported to the public in a timely manner that is both accessible and understandable for consumers.

The Committee has clearly recognized that this is an issue of critical importance to our nation. The business community, parents, students, and policymakers are united around the idea of making sure the best possible data is available for all who have a stake in ensuring the American system of higher education retains its position as the best in the world.

W. James McNerney, Jr.
The Boeing Company
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We believe, however, that this study is only a first step. We have little doubt that this study will contain recommendations to improve the U.S. Department of Education's efforts in this area and that your Committee will be called upon to act at some point in the future to make legislative changes. Please know the Business Roundtable is committed to working with the Committee to advance this issue as it moves forward and hope you will call on us if there is any way in which we can be helpful.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Engler". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized "J" at the beginning.

John Engler

JE/dl