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February 1, 2011

Mr. Gene Dodaro
Comptroller General
U.S. Government Accountability Office
441 G Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20548

Dear Mr. Dodaro:

Thank you for your cooperation with the inquiry made by the House Committee on Education and the Workforce and the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform into the proprietary school report prepared by the Forensic Audit and Special Investigations Unit ("FSI") of the U.S. Government Accountability Office ("GAO"). We appreciate the briefing your staff conducted for us in response to our December 23rd letter. At that time, your staff conveyed that GAO is taking the accusations of wrongdoing seriously and is taking steps to review and address the problems.

With the release of the revisions, GAO appointed a review team to evaluate the agency's quality control process and, specifically, to examine what missteps were responsible for the inaccurate findings and conclusion included in the report. We are anxiously awaiting the results from this review as the conclusions should allow GAO and Congress to see what actions, if any, were missed, rushed, and/or skipped to ensure the report was ready for the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee's August 4, 2010 hearing. We understand the review team was established because of the extent of the edits and inconsistencies that were noted by a team of attorneys reviewing the hours of video tape created for this report. While FSI did not agree with all of the exceptions noted by the attorneys, the corrections in the errata issued for this report were more significant than most other errata sheets issued by GAO.

We also learned GAO is currently working on a second investigation involving the proprietary school sector. We were pleased to hear the original team that handled the initial report is prohibited from participating in the second investigation. However, we are concerned that the Director of the FSI is still overseeing the second investigation and other ongoing investigations. Given the serious concerns that have been raised about the initial report, the Forensic Audit and Special Investigations Unit as a whole, and the testimony provided by the Director, we

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respectfully request that he too be barred from any involvement with these additional investigations involving the proprietary school sector or other areas falling within the jurisdiction of the House Committee on Education and the Workforce. This prohibition should remain in effect until such time as GAO completes its internal investigation and has allayed the concerns of the Committee as to the agency's objectivity.

Finally, GAO is looking at other reports and investigations prepared by FSI given the concerns that have arisen as a result of the proprietary school report. Until the integrity of FSI and GAO can be assured, it is imperative that you take the utmost care to ensure the testimony, reports, and audits presented to Congress and released to the public meet the highest ethical standards and can withstand the scrutiny of bias and concern that have been raised by this issue. Ensuring that all of the involved parties, including the Director of FSI, are removed from the process, as well as guaranteeing those persons involved are dealt with appropriately or cleared of any impropriety, is a simple, first step to restoring the integrity and reputation of GAO.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to receiving the results of your internal review. If you have any questions about this request, please contact Mandy Schaumburg or Amy Jones with the Committee staff at 202-225-6558.

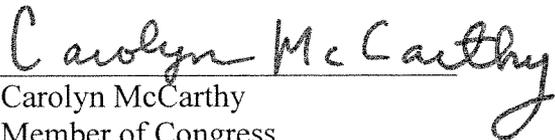
Sincerely,



John Kline
Chairman
House Committee on Education
and the Workforce



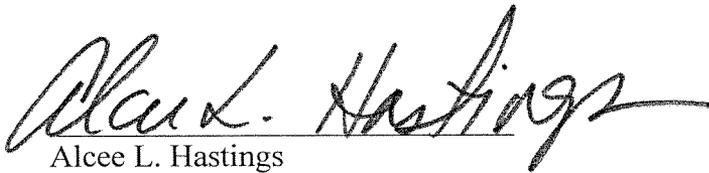
Virginia Foxx
Chairwoman
Subcommittee on Higher
Education and Workforce Training



Carolyn McCarthy
Member of Congress



Glenn Thompson
Member of Congress



Alcee L. Hastings
Member of Congress

cc: George Miller, Senior Democratic Member