

July 22, 2014

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

The Honorable George Miller
Ranking Member
U.S. House Committee on Education
and the Workforce
2101 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Virginia Foxx
Chairwoman
Subcommittee on Higher Education and
Workforce Training
U.S. House Committee on Education
and the Workforce
2181 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rubén Hinojosa
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Higher Education and
Workforce Training
U.S. House Committee on Education
and the Workforce
2101 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Kline, Ranking Member Miller, Chairwoman Foxx, and Ranking Member Hinojosa:

On behalf of the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities, a non-profit organization representing over 200 public research universities, land-grant institutions, and state university systems from across the United States, I write to express our support for the passage of the bipartisan H.R. 4983, the *Strengthening Transparency in Higher Education Act*. The legislation provides a much-needed path to strengthen, streamline, and improve the information available for students and families.

In particular, I am very pleased that the House Report 113-530 to accompany H.R. 4983 makes note and recommends several important non-federal efforts such as the Voluntary System of Accountability's (VSA) College Portrait website and the Student Achievement Measure (SAM) initiative that seek to increase higher education transparency and provide more accurate consumer information. I share the Committee's interest in expanding the public's knowledge of the undergraduate student experience as demonstrated by APLU's sponsorship of the VSA College Portrait, which provides straightforward and comparable information on college costs, financial aid, student outcomes and much more. Additionally, in conjunction with our partner associations, APLU has worked very hard to encourage institutional participation in SAM in order to

offer a more complete picture of student progress and graduation, including that of transfer students.

I appreciate your efforts to move this legislation forward. We look forward to working with you to advance and enhance this important legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter McPherson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Peter" and last name "McPherson" clearly distinguishable.

Peter McPherson
President, Association of Public and Land-grant Universities