



**LAUREATE**  
EDUCATION INC<sup>®</sup>

**WALDEN UNIVERSITY**

July 10, 2014

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

The Honorable George Miller  
Senior Democrat, Committee on Education  
and the Workforce  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2181 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Kline and Senior Democrat Miller,

We are writing on behalf of Laureate Education, Inc. and in particular, Laureate Online Education and Walden University, to express our support and appreciation for the Committee's commitment to innovation in higher education, as demonstrated by the bipartisan effort associated with H.R. 3136, Advancing Competency-Based Education Demonstration Project Act of 2013. As you know, Laureate is a global network of more than 75 higher education institutions in 29 countries. Walden University is one of six U.S. institutions and is our flagship U.S. online institution, currently serving approximately 50,000 students throughout the U.S. and around the world.

We would like to commend Congressman Matt Salmon, Congresswoman Susan Brooks and Congressman Jared Polis for their initiative to introduce the legislation, both of you for your leadership and attention to this issue, and the significant work by the Committee staff to produce the current legislative language. As our Chief Executive Officer of Laureate Global Products and Services, Paula Singer, expressed in her testimony before your Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Training last fall, it is critically important to institutions and more importantly to students, that the U.S. have strong higher education policies – through legislation and regulation – that foster, instead of hinder, innovative methods and practices in teaching and learning.

In many ways, H.R. 3136 picks up on innovation and online education where the Distance Education Demonstration Program, enacted by Congress in 1998, left off. Walden participated in that demonstration program, and we have a strong appreciation for the benefits of using demonstration programs and projects to test the waters on innovation, while appropriately and carefully protecting the use of Title IV funds. More specifically, H.R. 3136 recognizes the need to explore the impact on federal funding and on the student of educational models focused on competency-based, direct learning, where the measure of success is based directly on the assessment of knowledge, skills, and experience, rather than on time spent in the classroom. Laureate and Walden very much look forward to our continued work with you and the Committee staff on the bill as it moves through the House and hopefully, to a Conference Committee with a Senate bill.

In closing, on behalf of all of Laureate's U.S. institutions, we would like to also express our commitment to the need for clear, simple, and useful forms of information disclosure and transparency to students. Equally important is the need, responsibility and ability on the part of institutions to appropriately counsel students on their financial aid borrowing. The two additional bills that the Committee is considering today represent a significant step toward those important policy goals and again, we look forward to working with you on these pieces of legislation as they proceed through Congress.



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Regards,

Jonathan A. Kaplan  
Chief Executive Officer  
Laureate Online Education

Cynthia G. Baum, Ph.D  
President  
Walden University