



July 16, 2013

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

The Honorable Virginia Foxx
Chairwoman, Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Training
U.S. House of Representatives
2181 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Alcee Hastings
Member, U.S. House of Representatives
2352 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: H.R. 2637, The Supporting Academic Freedom through Regulatory Relief Act

Dear Chairman Kline, Chairwoman Foxx and Congressman Hastings:

On behalf of the Association of Private Sector Colleges and Universities (APSCU), representing member institutions that educate and support nearly four million students and their hundreds of thousands of dedicated educators and staff, we thank you for introducing ***H.R. 2637, The Supporting Academic Freedom through Regulatory Relief Act***. We appreciate your leadership in addressing the U.S. Department of Education's over regulation of institutions of postsecondary education.

We applaud your effort to repeal the poorly drafted existing regulations, while halting further regulation until after Congress completes its important work on the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act ("HEA"). When I testified at the Department's public hearing on May 21st, I raised concerns about more negotiated rulemaking with the HEA reauthorization on the horizon. APSCU and its member institutions strongly believe that now is not the time to be wasting taxpayer resources and institutional funds on a rulemaking process that is likely to be undone when the HEA is reauthorized.

The state authorization regulation has been particularly troubling for many postsecondary institutions. We greatly appreciate your efforts to encourage the delay of the regulation for states that are not in compliance. The Department has failed to provide any public information as to the states deemed compliant or any comprehensive guidance detailing the requirements to become compliant. Without adequate information, there is confusion, and states and institutions are left in an untenable position.



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Our nation currently faces twin crises - stubbornly high unemployment and a skills gap where employers all across the country cannot find trained and job-ready workers. The key to narrowing the skills gap and reducing unemployment is an "all-hands-on-deck" approach to postsecondary education. We need to be working together to address these critical issues. To that end, APSCU is grateful for the House Education and the Workforce Committee's continued bipartisan legislative agenda and strongly supports the passage of H.R. 2637 by the House of Representatives.

Thank you for introducing this critical legislation.

Sincerely,

Steve Gunderson
President and CEO