

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

R. BRUCE JOSTEN
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT
GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

1615 H STREET, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20062-2000
202/463-5310

February 27, 2012

The Honorable Virginia Foxx
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Foxx:

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the world's largest business federation representing the interests of more than three million businesses and organizations of every size, sector, and region, supports H.R. 2117, the "Protecting Academic Freedom in Higher Education Act."

H.R. 2117 would eliminate the Obama Administration's burdensome regulations known as "Clock-Credit Hour and State Authorization." The Chamber is proud to join colleges and universities of all types—public and private, for-profit and nonprofit, at the graduate, bachelors, and two-year degree and certificate levels—to support this important legislation. The Clock-Credit Hour and State Authorization regulations are yet another example of the unprecedented regulatory overreach of this Administration, stifling job creation and limiting innovation and economic growth.

Maintaining a strong and vibrant postsecondary education system is crucial to the success of the American system of free enterprise and maintaining a competitive position in the world. The Clock-Credit Hour and State Authorization regulations do nothing more than create additional red tape and administrative burdens for colleges and universities while failing to increase institutional accountability for improving college completion or lowering college costs.

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce supports H.R. 2117 and urges the House to pass this important legislation to repeal these overly burdensome regulations as soon as practical. We thank you for your efforts to help streamline the federal role in higher education and protect states, schools, and students from excessive and costly regulatory burdens.

Sincerely,



R. Bruce Josten