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Congressman John Kline  
Chairman  
House Committee on Education and the Workforce  
2181 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Congressman George Miller  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Education and the Workforce  
2101 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Kline and Ranking Member Miller,

I am writing in strong support of the modified version of H.R. 3136, the Advancing Competency-Based Education Demonstration Project Act, which the committee is considering, and which was introduced by Congressman Matt Salmon, Congressman Jared Polis, Congressman Robert E. Andrews and Congresswoman Susan Brooks.

As we look at the biggest issues affecting Higher Education in the United States, we are faced with the need to first and foremost address access and affordability. To tackle these issues many involved in higher education have been talking about competency-based education, and for good reason. Implemented properly, competency-based education promises to address several of the key challenges facing higher education by increasing efficiency and reducing costs, improving our ability to measure learning outcomes, and shortening time to degree completion.

Today's higher education regulations, with their reliance on measuring time, are simply not designed to support competency-based education. We must change these laws and regulations so that they are not a deterrent to institutions trying to develop competency-based programs.

Passage of H.R. 3136 is a great step forward. It will allow the Department of Education to waive current regulations, allowing selected institutions to experiment with ways to measure learning and administer federal financial aid based on measuring learning. This demonstration project can then inform Congress, the Administration and the higher education community of the changes needed in the next reauthorization of the Higher Education Act, which will support real change and innovation while preserving academic integrity.

Thank you very much for your consideration and look forward to working with you to establish a Competency-Based Education Demonstration Program.

Sincerely,

Dr. Robert Mendenhall  
President and CEO  
Western Governors University