



STATEMENT OF LAUREN ASHER
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House FY16 Education Funding Bill Blocks Gainful Employment Rule, Cuts Student Aid

“It is hard to fathom how today’s [FY2016 House appropriations bill](#) could cut student aid by hundreds of millions of dollars *and* block common-sense regulations designed to protect students and taxpayers from getting ripped off by programs at predatory schools, like those at now-shuttered Corinthian Colleges.

“The gainful employment regulation is scheduled to go into effect on July 1, and it’s urgently needed to ensure career education programs at public, non-profit, and for-profit colleges prepare students for promised careers and enable them to repay their loans. It blocks taxpayer dollars for wasteful, harmful programs and directs funding to programs that better prepare students for jobs. Indeed, if the gainful employment rule had already been in effect, the lives of thousands of students – including former Corinthian students – would be better today, and taxpayers would be better off, too. CBO estimates the regulation will prevent \$2 billion from being wasted over 10 years on programs that consistently leave students worse off and buried in debts they can’t repay. The fleecing of students and taxpayers must stop.

“This bill also includes a \$370 million cut to student financial assistance. With millions of Americans struggling to pay for college and repay student loans, Congress should be helping make college more affordable and strengthening protections for students and taxpayers, not cutting aid and blocking protections.”

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An independent, nonprofit organization, The Institute for College Access & Success (TICAS) works to make higher education more available and affordable for people of all backgrounds. Our Project on Student Debt works to increase public understanding of rising student debt and the implications for our families, economy, and society. For more information see www.ticas.org or follow us on Twitter at www.twitter.com/TICAS_org.