



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Broad Coalition Presses for Stronger Regulation of Career Ed Programs

Website Launched to Educate Public and Send Comments: www.ProtectStudentsandTaxpayers.org

A diverse group of advocates for students, consumers, higher education, civil rights and college access today [delivered a letter](#) to U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan urging four changes to strengthen draft regulations for career education programs that receive federal student aid.

In the letter, the more than 25 organizations point out that federal law requires all career education programs receiving federal aid “to prepare students for gainful employment in a recognized occupation.” They praise the Department of Education for recently proposing regulations that would define “gainful employment” for the first time and make it possible to enforce the law. However, they call for the new rules to be strengthened to better protect students and taxpayers.

The letter urges that the regulations: set a higher student-loan-repayment standard for programs receiving federal student aid; require poorly performing programs to improve to keep receiving student aid; provide equal protection for families with children; and start protecting students next year.

The public comment period on the proposed regulations ends September 9, 2010, and the Department of Education must finalize the regulations by November 1 for them to take effect in July 2011. The public can learn about and comment on these important regulations through a new web site, www.ProtectStudentsandTaxpayers.org, sponsored by several national nonprofit organizations including the Institute for College Access & Success. The site provides background on the issue, including links to recent editorials and news coverage, fact sheets, and the draft regulations.

“The Education Department’s proposed regulations are an important step toward protecting students and taxpayers from rip-off career education programs, but they need to be strengthened,” said Pauline Abernathy, Vice President at the Institute for College Access & Success. “Today more than ever, Americans need access to quality, affordable education and training, and taxpayers should not be forced to subsidize schools with low performance and high profits.”

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[See the coalition letter](#)

An independent, nonprofit organization, the Institute for College Access & Success works to make higher education more available and affordable for people of all backgrounds. The Institute’s 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.projectonstudentdebt.org and www.ticas.org, and [follow us on Twitter](#).