

August 19, 2019

The Honorable Donna Shalala  
1320 Longworth HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Shalala,

While we have shared with you our concerns over your legislation that would result in 185,000 veterans losing their access to the education program of their choosing, we want to applaud you for introducing the “Student Loan Transparency Act” of 2019. This bipartisan piece of legislation is a welcome addition to the higher education policy landscape.

Career Education Colleges and Universities (CECU) has been a long-standing supporter of transparency in higher education since it is beneficial not only to students, but to the economy, businesses, and higher education as well. Transparency has the potential to resolve the partisan bias that currently exists. If we can show transparency in all aspects of higher education, we can protect students and taxpayers at the same time. When the Department of Education released its proposals for changes to the Gainful Employment regulation, we applauded them for their commitment to transparency and an equal and fair standard for all universities. At the start of the new Congress, we wrote letters to Chairmen Bobby Scott and Lamar Alexander calling on them to put forward bipartisan proposals for the higher education sector. The Student Loan Transparency Act is to be celebrated for having support from both sides of the aisle.

In today’s political climate, it is easy to dismiss proposals for the simple reason that they come from a different political party. Sadly, this has been true even in the area of higher education where we have lost sight of what really matters: access, opportunity, and outcomes. It is for this reason that we have continuously called for the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act. The present regulatory climate is a decade old and therefore obsolete in a rapidly changing environment. Reauthorization of the HEA would allow us to create a new standard that delivers for students and is fair to all higher education institutions.

Thank you for your ongoing dedication and leadership in the higher education debate and your commitment to advocating for greater transparency. We hope to continue working with you on this important topic so that we can deliver a universal standard that gives students the information they need to succeed and can help us to create a 21<sup>st</sup>-century American workforce.

Kind regards,



Steve Gunderson  
President and CEO