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Assembly
California Legislature



LORI SALDANA
SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, SEVENTY-SIXTH DISTRICT

COMMITTEES:
ELECTIONS AND REDISTRICTING
HOUSING AND COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT
REVENUE AND TAXATION
VETERANS AFFAIRS

CHAIR, LEGISLATIVE WOMEN'S
CAUCUS

May 13, 2010

The Honorable George Miller
Chairman, Committee on Education and Labor
2205 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Miller,

I would like to call your attention to a proposed rule by the Department of Education that would limit opportunities for Americans seeking to acquire new skills and compete for jobs in the 21st century workplace.

For thousands of students, private sector post-secondary schools provide career training for the jobs they need to succeed in today's economy. These institutions provide a broad range of education options.

However, the Gainful Employment rule proposed by the Department of Education would render many of these career-oriented degree programs ineligible for Title IV financial aid if students fail to meet a debt service-to-income ratio test.

As a result, hundreds of thousands of students would be prevented from obtaining an education that prepares them for jobs that America needs, simply because their course of study prepares them for jobs that don't fit into the Education Department's Gainful Employment formula. The proposed rule discriminates against students enrolled in America's career-oriented private sector colleges.

This rule is unfair to those who want to pursue needed careers with lower starting salaries, such as teaching and allied health professions. Essentially, these students would be ineligible to qualify for the same federal funding as classmates who opt for careers that may initially pay better starting salaries.

Because this rule discriminates against those who must borrow to attend college, access to post-secondary education may move out of reach for many low-income and minority students. This is unacceptable.

Please work to prevent the Department from instituting the Gainful Employment rule and preserve educational opportunities for the folks who need and want it most.

Thank you for your time and consideration on this matter. Please feel free to contact me if I can provide further assistance at (916) 319-2076.

Sincerely,

Lori Saldaña
Assembly Member, 76th AD



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May 13, 2010

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Office of the Speaker
H-232, US Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

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