

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 28, 2006

Michael S. Greco
President
American Bar Association
321 North Clark Street
Chicago, IL 60610

Dear Mr. Greco,

We write to you to make you aware of a situation that has come to our attention. Over the past year, as Congress considered legislation to reauthorize the Higher Education Act, concern was raised by a number of parties about the American Bar Association's process and procedures for accrediting law schools.

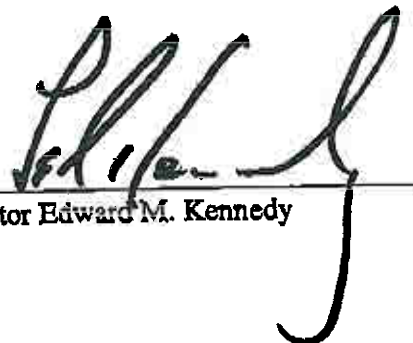
While Congress has avoided direct involvement in accrediting agencies' operations, we believe accrediting associations recognized by the Department of Education are invested with a public trust and perform an important public function. As a result, Congress expects that those agencies receiving Department recognition will perform those functions with the same diligence and competence as would be provided by any public body and that their procedures will reflect the same level of transparency, due process, and accountability that would apply to the Department if it performed this function itself.

We also note that the Department of Education recently announced that it would need more time to consider the ABA's petition for renewal of recognition, citing the need to review "a significant volume of material" from third parties. This is a highly unusual occurrence.

We hope that these issues regarding accreditation of law schools can be resolved to the satisfaction of all parties.

Sincerely,


Senator Michael B. Enzi


Senator Edward M. Kennedy