

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

December 3, 2015

The Honorable Hal Rogers
Chairman
House Committee on Appropriations
H-305, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nita Lowey
Ranking Member
House Committee on Appropriations
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Rogers and Ranking Member Lowey:

We write to express our opposition to the inclusion of any riders on appropriations bills that would prevent or delay the implementation of the Department of Education's (ED's) gainful employment regulation.

Currently, 37 state attorneys general, the Department of Justice, the Securities and Exchange Commission, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, and the Department of Defense all are investigating allegations of deceptive, predatory, and unlawful practices at for-profit colleges. Additionally, student loan debt in the U.S. now totals roughly \$1.3 trillion while for-profit colleges enroll just 10% of students and account for 39% of all federal student loan defaults.

The Higher Education Act requires all career education programs that receive Title IV funds to "prepare students for gainful employment in a recognized occupation," but does not define "gainful employment," making the provision difficult to enforce. That is why ED underwent a negotiated rulemaking process and issued a gainful employment regulation in 2014. This regulation, now in effect, is designed to protect students and taxpayers from career education programs that leave students with useless degrees and unsustainable debt.

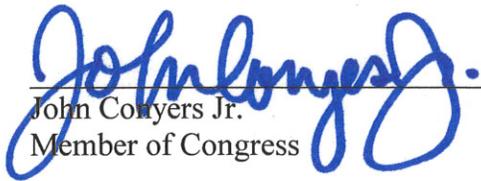
The gainful employment regulation shields students from the worst performing career education programs at all types of schools by making programs that burden graduates with insurmountable debt ineligible for federal student aid and has twice been upheld in court. Specifically, the regulation requires program graduates' loan payments to be less than 8 percent of their total earnings or less than 20 percent of discretionary earnings in order for that program to be eligible to receive federal student aid.

Congress should be strengthening protections for students and taxpayers, not weakening them. That is why we oppose any efforts to block or delay the implementation of the Department of Education's gainful employment regulation through appropriations legislation.

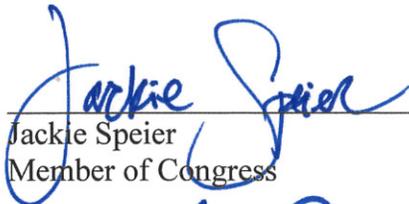
Sincerely,

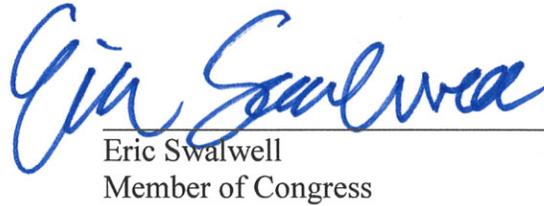

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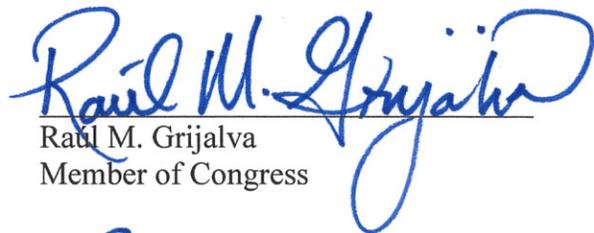

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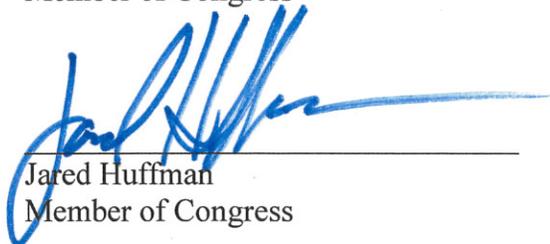

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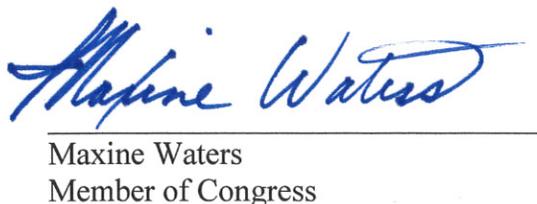

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Jared Huffman
Member of Congress

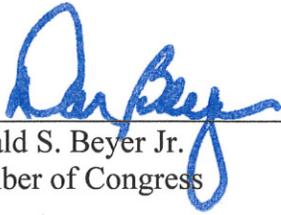

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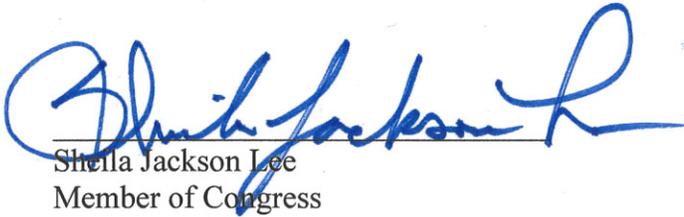


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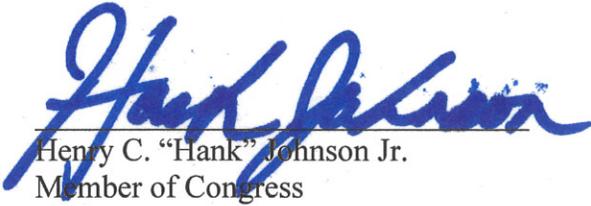
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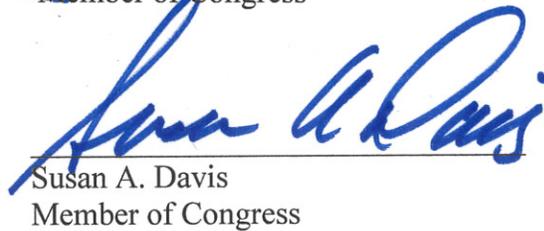
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