



National Association of Independent
Colleges and Universities

March 30, 2006

The Honorable Howard "Buck" McKeon
Chairman
Education and the Workforce Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

As you know, this week, independent colleges around the nation have voiced a number of concerns about the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act that is currently being considered by the House of Representatives. Principal among our concerns have been the provisions in the measure that we believe establish inappropriate federal control over a private college's responsibility to set its own prices, and those that would allow states to become accreditors.

It is our understanding that you have agreed to strike these provisions. Consistent with our previous discussions, the removal of these most troublesome provisions will allow NAICU to remove its vigorous opposition to the bill on the House floor, and open the way for us to work together with you and Mr. Miller to seek further improvements in the legislation in conference.

As you have also heard from our members, there are other features of the measure that are troubling but did not rise to the level of concern prompted by the price control and states-as-accreditors provisions. Fundamentally, we are concerned about opening the door to federal involvement in areas such as transfer of credit, and feel strongly about protecting the integrity of the student aid program.

We appreciate the willingness of you and your colleagues to listen to the concerns of NAICU members. America's private colleges play an essential role in ensuring the diversity of choice that is the strength of American higher education. We hope that we can work together to ensure that this diversity is maintained, by ensuring appropriate accountability to federal taxpayers without imposing inappropriate federal or state control.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. L. Warren". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

David L. Warren
President
National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities