

Kristen F. Soares  
PRESIDENT



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William Jessup University  
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February 9, 2017

Senator Dianne Feinstein  
331 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator Feinstein:

On behalf of the Association of Independent California Colleges and Universities (AICCU), the statewide voice for private, nonprofit colleges and universities in California, I write to urge your support of House Resolution 58 (H. J. Res. 58). The resolution seeks to roll back the Teacher Preparation Regulations adopted by the Department of Education in October of 2016 and is scheduled to be considered on the House floor on Tuesday, February 7, 2016. The regulations have raised significant concern and lingering questions on implementation among our teacher preparation programs and across many stakeholders in California.

AICCU represents seventy-nine (79) colleges and universities in California that educate approximately 338,000 students. The independent sector enrolls approximately 53% of the teacher preparation candidates and in 2014-15 produced over 4,800, or 43% of new teacher credentials in the State. AICCU submitted a letter of opposition to the proposed regulations that were released in December of 2014 (February 2, 2015 letter attached). Although the final version of the regulations that were released by the Department in October 2016 included some improvements based on the tremendous amount of concerns raised across the country, the final regulations continue to limit flexibility of the states, impose significant costs on programs and states, and ultimately punish students with the potential loss of TEACH/Title IV funds. Lastly, we continue to fear that such regulations, based partially on linking teacher preparation "quality" with K-12 student achievement as described in the regulations, may have the unintended consequence of discouraging students from working in high need areas of the state.

We urge you to support the ability of states to create accountability frameworks that appropriately reflect the needs of their respective K-12 students and teacher candidates and that focus on developing and supporting effective, high quality, and innovative teacher preparation programs. I thank you for your consideration of the above and of our request to support of H. J. Res 58 when it is debated on the House Floor.

Sincerely,

Kristen F. Soares

Attachment: February 2, 2015 Letter to U.S. Department of Education