

Kristen F. Soares
PRESIDENT



February 9, 2017

Senator Kamala D. Harris
112 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

American Jewish University
Antioch University Los Angeles
Art Center College of Design
Azusa Pacific University
Biola University
Brandman University
California Baptist University
California College of the Arts
California Institute of Integral Studies
California Institute of Technology
California Institute of the Arts
California Lutheran University
Chapman University
Charles R. Drew University
Chicago School of Professional Psychology
Claremont Graduate University
Claremont McKenna College
Columbia College Hollywood
Concordia University Irvine
Dominican University of California
Fielding Graduate University
Fresno Pacific University
Golden Gate University
Harvey Mudd College
Holy Names University
Hope International University
Humphreys College
International Technological University
John Paul the Great Catholic University
Keck Graduate University
La Sierra University
Laguna College of Art and Design
Loma Linda University
Loyola Marymount University
Marymount California University
Master's College
Menlo College
Mills College
Mount Saint Mary's University
National University
Notre Dame de Namur University
Occidental College
Otis College of Art and Design
Pacific Oaks College
Pacific Union College
Palo Alto University
Pepperdine University
Pitzer College
Point Loma Nazarene University
Pomona College
Providence Christian College
Saint Mary's College of California
Samuel Merritt University
San Diego Christian College
San Francisco Art Institute
San Francisco Conservatory of Music
Santa Clara University
Saybrook University
Scripps College
Simpson University
Soka University
Southern Calif. Institute of Architecture
Southern Calif. Univ. of Health Sciences
Stanford University
Thomas Aquinas College
Touro University California
University of La Verne
University of Redlands
University of San Diego
University of San Francisco
University of Southern California
University of the Pacific
University of the West
Vanguard University
Western University of Health Sciences
Westmont College
Whittier College
William Jessup University
Woodbury University