

July 9, 2014

The Honorable Matt Salmon
Committee on Education and the Workforce
U.S. House of Representatives
2349 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Jared Polis
Committee on Education and the Workforce
U.S. House of Representatives
1433 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Susan Brooks
Committee on Education and the Workforce
1505 Longworth House Office Building
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Salmon, Representative Polis, and Representative Brooks:

On behalf of Apollo Education Group and University of Phoenix, I write to express strong support for H.R. 3136, the *Advancing Competency-Based Education Demonstration Project Act of 2014*.

As one of the world's largest private education providers, we wholeheartedly agree that innovation can offer students a wealth of new educational opportunities tailored to their specific personal and financial needs, yet outdated federal policies are standing in the way.

Innovation, affordable capacity expansion, collaboration between public and private institutions and working closely with business needs is at the heart of Apollo Education Group and University of Phoenix. Today's students expect institutions of higher education to provide them with state-of-the-art technology, hands-on education with real-world experience, and a genuinely innovative approach to learning. This is growing increasingly important in a sector that has become too stagnant and bureaucratic.

The expansion of competency-based learning and helping students build competencies throughout their education journey and demonstrating their value in the career marketplace before degree completion are among the most promising ways to improve education delivery and attainment in a more cost-effective, efficient and affordable manner.



In addition to the important policy changes your bill will make to help students and lower the cost of college, we applaud your bipartisan efforts and thank you for your leadership. We hope to see your bill signed into law by the President, allowing all institutions of higher education the opportunity to employ innovative competency-based strategies to address the 3.7 million job openings not being filled by U.S. companies today due to a skills shortage and once again produce the highest proportion of college graduates in the world.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Brenner', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mark Brenner
Chief of Staff
Apollo Education Group