

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 10, 2016

The Honorable Ted Mitchell  
Under Secretary  
Department of Education  
400 Maryland Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20202

Dear Under Secretary Mitchell:

We write today about recent actions taken by the Department of Education related to DeVry University and urge you to explore additional appropriate steps to protect students and taxpayers.

On January 27, the Department sent a "Notice of Intent to Limit" to DeVry University prohibiting the company from making certain claims regarding job placement rates and the employability of its students after the Department determined that DeVry was "unable to substantiate the truthfulness of those representations, as is required by federal law." Specifically, the Department cited DeVry's claim that "Since 1975, 90.1% of DeVry graduates system-wide in the active job market held positions in their fields of study within 6 months of graduation."

On the same day, the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) filed suit against DeVry for this and other claims that the FTC said "deceived consumers about the likelihood that students would find jobs in their fields of study, and would earn more than those graduating with bachelor's degrees from other colleges and universities." The FTC complaint alleges that DeVry was able to inflate their job placement data through a number of dubious tactics including counting graduates who were working in jobs they held prior to attending DeVry and excluding students who weren't finding jobs from those "actively seeking" employment.

While we applaud the collaboration between the Department of Education and Federal Trade Commission in this case, we remain concerned about DeVry's effectively unrestricted continued participation in the federal Title IV program in light of the Department's findings. Last year, DeVry Education Group took in more than \$1 billion in federal taxpayer funding through Title IV. Meanwhile, its students cumulatively hold more than \$8 billion in federal student loan debt. We urge you to look at additional measures within your authority, including additional disclosures or reporting requirements, to ensure taxpayer dollars are being properly safeguarded and that students are not being further misled or taken advantage of by this company.

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin  
United States Senator



Richard Blumenthal  
United States Senator



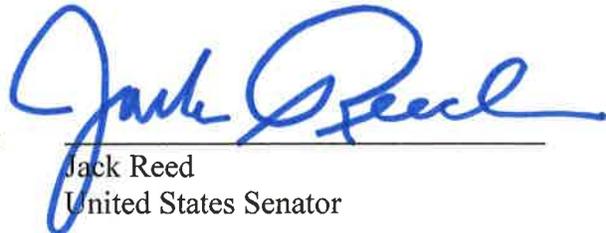
Elizabeth Warren  
United States Senator



Sherrod Brown  
United States Senator



Al Franken  
United States Senator



Jack Reed  
United States Senator