



e-Bulletin 20100629

## Encourage US Department of Education to Issue Regulations of For-Profit Colleges

TAUP would like your help contacting Congress and the Secretary of Education regarding the important issue of regulating for-profit universities. There has recently been a lot of discussion in Congress surrounding the for-profit sector of higher education. See this Inside Higher Ed article on last week's hearing in the U.S. Senate as an example of the concerns that a growing number of legislators and policymakers have about some for-profit schools. <http://www.insidehighered.com/news/2010/06/25/hearing>

AFT has been actively working with a coalition of groups to encourage better regulation of that sector and in fact earlier this month the U.S. Department of Education proposed some important new regulations aimed at ensuring that taxpayer dollars are spent appropriately and effectively on federal student aid, but it did not issue a draft regulation defining "gainful employment". Each year, students borrow and taxpayers spend billions of dollars to subsidize attendance at programs required by law to "prepare students for gainful employment in a recognized occupation." Yet current regulations include no definition of "gainful employment," leaving the law unenforceable.

The Department of Ed has said it will issue the draft regulations on the definition of gainful employment "shortly", but if the Department doesn't issue them by the first week of July, these rules likely won't go into effect until July 2012. In the next year alone, taxpayers will likely underwrite more than \$30 billion in loans to students attending programs that are required to prepare them for gainful employment. Students and taxpayers shouldn't have to wait another year to be protected from for-profit career education programs that over-charge and under-deliver.

Here is how you can help:

Go to [www.protectstudentsandtaxpayers.org](http://www.protectstudentsandtaxpayers.org) today and urge Education Secretary Arne Duncan, OMB Director Peter Orszag and your Members of Congress to make sure that next year strong regulations are in place to protect students and taxpayers from exploitative career education programs. The for-profit higher education lobby is doing everything it can to get the Department to not issue or delay issuing these important regulations and so the Department and Congress need to hear from everyone who believes better regulation is needed.

Thank you.

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