

June 14, 2011

The Honorable Harry Reid  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Leaders Reid and McConnell:

We write to strongly oppose the DeMint amendment to the Economic Development Revitalization Act of 2011 (SA 400 to S. 782) or any other legislative effort that would nullify the final “gainful employment” rule issued by the Secretary of Education on June 2, 2011.

Given the overwhelming evidence that the worst career colleges are taking unfair advantage of students and wasting taxpayer funds, evidence that has now led to a joint investigation by eleven state attorneys general, we need to do more, not less, to protect students and taxpayers. We need to hold more accountable the high-price, low-quality, deceptively-marketed education programs that leave students—disproportionately women, minorities, low-income Americans, and our veterans—deep in debt.

Especially in a time of intense budget pressures, Congress should seek to maximize the return on taxpayer investment and eliminate waste, fraud and abuse. The DeMint amendment would lead in the opposite direction. It would compel taxpayers to finance more educational programs that harm students and increase the risk of another subprime mortgage-like debt crisis, this time in student loans.

Congress needs to protect the interests of students, veterans, and taxpayers, and it can do this in the context of fiscal responsibility and common sense.

We urge you to oppose the DeMint amendment or any similar effort and to support additional protections against waste, fraud and abuse in the career college industry. For more information on this issue, please visit [www.ProtectStudentsandTaxpayers.org](http://www.ProtectStudentsandTaxpayers.org).

Sincerely,

AFL-CIO  
American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers  
American Association of University Women  
American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Local 3299  
American Federation of Teachers  
Americans for Financial Reform  
Campaign for College Affordability  
Campus Progress  
Center for Law and Social Policy

Consumer Action  
Consumer Federation of California  
Consumers Union  
Council for Opportunity in Education  
Crittenton Women's Union  
Dēmos: A Network for Ideas and Action  
The Education Trust  
The Greenlining Institute  
The Insight Center for Economic Development Closing the Racial Wealth Gap Initiative  
The Institute for College Access & Success and its Project on Student Debt  
The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights  
League of United Latin American Citizens  
NAACP  
National Association for College Admissions Counseling  
National Consumer Law Center (on behalf of its low-income clients)  
National Consumers League  
National Council of La Raza  
National Education Association  
Neighborhood Economic Development Advocacy Project  
New Jersey Citizen Action  
Public Advocates Inc.  
Public Citizen  
Public Higher Education Network of Massachusetts  
Returning Veterans of America  
Thurgood Marshall College Fund  
United States Student Association  
U.S. PIRG  
VetJobs  
Young Invincibles

**Please note:** This letter was updated on July 6, 2011 to include organizations that asked to sign the letter after it was submitted on June 14, 2011.