

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

January 25, 2013

The Honorable Arne Duncan
Secretary
US Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20202

Dear Secretary Duncan:

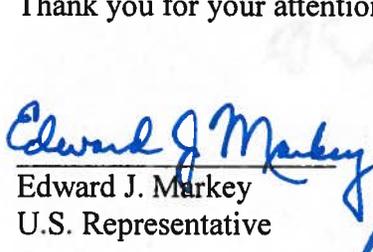
We write to ask for your assistance for the nearly 1,400 students in Massachusetts who learned earlier this month that their education provider, American Career Institute (ACI), was closing all of their campuses immediately due to financial difficulties. ACI, a for-profit training school that operated five campuses in Massachusetts (Framingham, Cambridge, Woburn, Springfield, and Braintree) offered programs in Allied Health, Digital Media, Information Technology, Software Development and database administration, among others, to students interested in those fields. The sudden closure of ACI raises a number of questions about how students will be able to continue their studies and whether they will continue to have access to financial assistance to pursue their education.

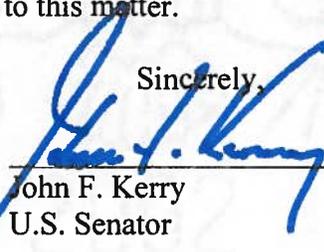
We must work to help these students continue their certificate programs at other institutions and maintain their ability to access Pell Grant funding as well as other federal grants and loans. The Massachusetts Division of Professional Licensure (DPL) has already created an email account and a telephone hotline to help students during this difficult time, and has been in communication with the impacted students. The Commonwealth is actively working to secure "teach-out" opportunities at other occupational schools, so ACI students can complete their training programs.

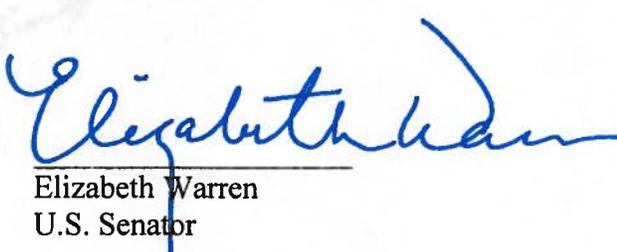
We understand that Massachusetts is already working with the Department to help these students. We ask that you provide whatever assistance is available to ensure that these students find placements in new academic institutions, and that we avoid any delay in federal funds that would prevent them from moving forward to pursue their dreams through educational advancement. The financial challenges of ACI should not negatively impact the students' ability to graduate, succeed in the workforce, and build bright futures.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

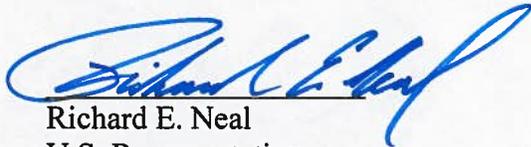
Sincerely,


Edward J. Markey
U.S. Representative

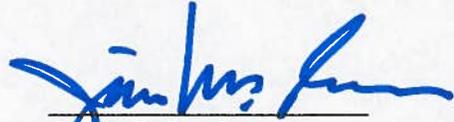

John F. Kerry
U.S. Senator


Elizabeth Warren
U.S. Senator

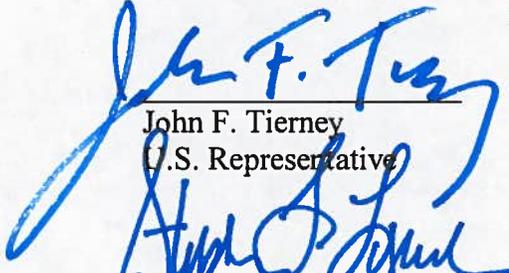
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Richard E. Neal
U.S. Representative



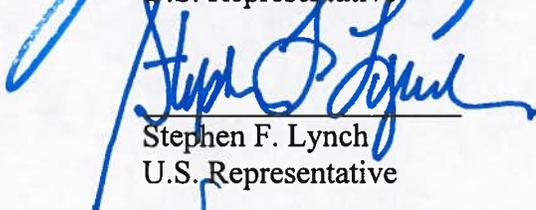
James P. McGovern
U.S. Representative



John F. Tierney
U.S. Representative



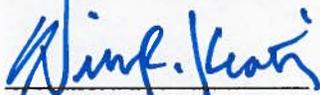
Michael E. Capuano
U.S. Representative



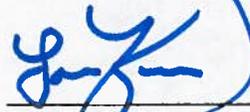
Stephen F. Lynch
U.S. Representative



Niki Tsongas
U.S. Representative



William R. Keating
U.S. Representative



Joseph P. Kennedy III
U.S. Representative