

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

January 25, 2013

The Honorable Eric Shinseki  
Secretary  
US Department of Veterans Affairs  
810 Vermont Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20420

Dear Secretary Shinseki:

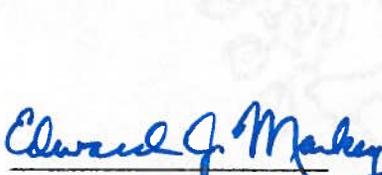
We write to ask for your assistance for the veterans studying at the American Career Institute (ACI) in Massachusetts who learned earlier this month that ACI was closing all of their campuses immediately due to financial difficulties. ACI, a for-profit training school that operated five campuses in Massachusetts (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 these veterans 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 veterans continue their certificate programs at other institutions and maintain their ability to access federal grants and loans offered by the Department of Veterans Affairs. 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.

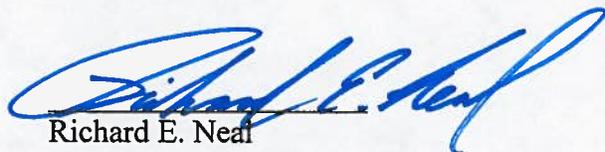
Sincerely,

  
Edward J. Markey  
U.S. Representative

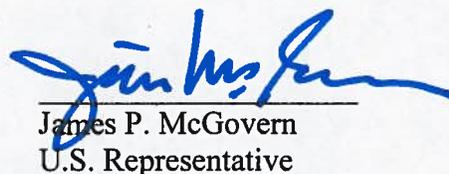
  
John F. Kerry  
U.S. Senator

  
Elizabeth Warren  
U.S. Senator

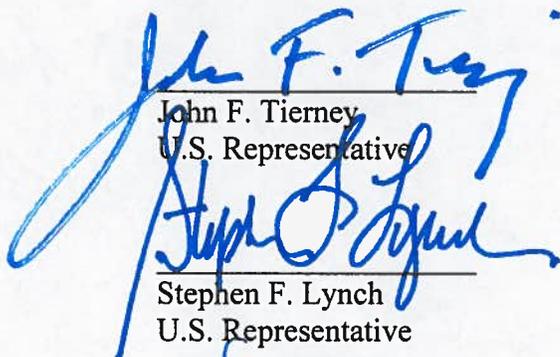
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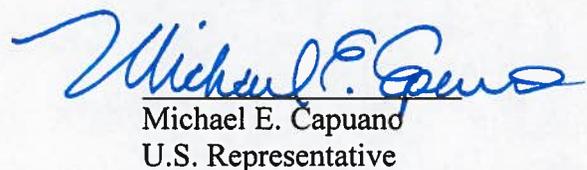
Richard E. Neal  
U.S. Representative



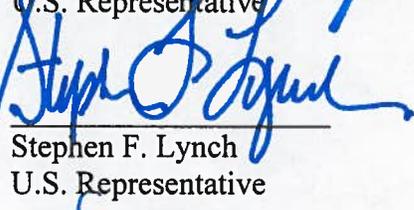
James P. McGovern  
U.S. Representative



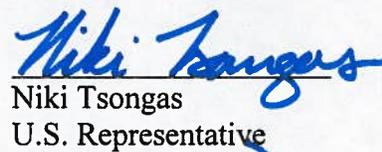
John F. Tierney  
U.S. Representative



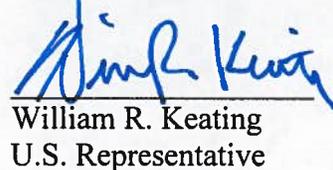
Michael E. Capuano  
U.S. Representative



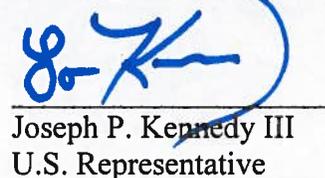
Stephen F. Lynch  
U.S. Representative



Niki Tsongas  
U.S. Representative



William R. Keating  
U.S. Representative



Joseph P. Kennedy III  
U.S. Representative