

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

January 25, 2013

Mr. Roger J. Williams
Executive Director
Accrediting Council for Continuing Education & Training
1722 N Street NW
Washington, DC 20036

Dear Mr. Williams:

We write to convey our concerns surrounding the recent closure of the American Career Institute (ACI), a for-profit training school that operated five campuses in Massachusetts (Framingham, Cambridge, Woburn, Springfield, and Braintree). ACI 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 the process the Accrediting Council for Continuing Education & Training (ACCET) uses to accredit and monitor educational institutions.

According to a January 9, 2013, a letter from ACI to its students, "all ACI campuses will close." The letter went on to explain: "The owners had to make the difficult decision to close the school due to its recent and unanticipated inability to access additional credit from the school's lenders. Without access to this credit, ACI is not able to continue operating." Our understanding is that ACI students were provided no advance warning about this closure prior to receiving this communication.

On behalf of the students who invested their time and money into their education, we have several questions for ACCET—as the accrediting institution—about the process of conferring accreditation upon ACI:

1. What process does ACCET use in deciding whether to accredit an educational institution?
 - a. What information do you ask the institution to provide? Please provide a comprehensive list.
 - b. Does this information include information about the financial viability of the institution (e.g., lending information)? If no, why not?
 - c. How long does this process normally take?
2. How does ACCET use the information provided by the applicant to determine whether an institution is economically healthy?

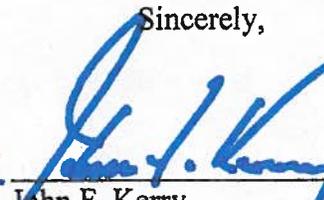
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3. In what year did you last accredit ACI? For how long was this accreditation? When is ACI required to go through a new accreditation process?
4. When ACCET reviewed ACI's most recent application for accreditation, did ACCET have any concerns?
 - a. If yes, what issues did you find? Were these concerns conveyed to ACI? Did ACI take steps to address or resolve those issues? If yes, please describe them.
5. Was ACCET aware of any financial problems at ACI? If no, why not?
 - a. If yes, when did ACCET first become aware of these financial challenges? What were those challenges? What steps did ACCET take to address these financial problems at ACI? Please explain and include a timeline if applicable.
6. Did ACI give you any notice about any financial issues it was having? If yes, when was this notice provided? If yes, what notice did it provide?
7. Did ACI provide ACCET any notice about its plans to shut its facilities? If yes, how was this notice conveyed and when?
8. When a school that ACCET accredits closes its doors, what steps does ACCET normally take (i.e., do you withdraw their accreditation)?
9. In the case of ACI, what steps is ACCET taking to address the current situation at the Institute?

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. Please provide a response no later than February 13, 2013. If you have any questions, please have a member of your staff contact William Spring in Congressman Markey's office (202-225-2836)

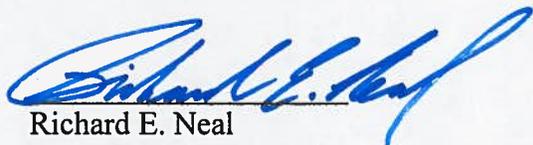
Sincerely,


Edward J. Markey
U.S. Representative

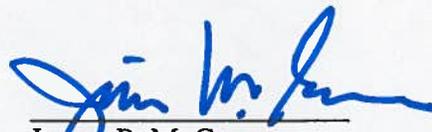

John F. Kerry
U.S. Senator


Elizabeth Warren
U.S. Senator

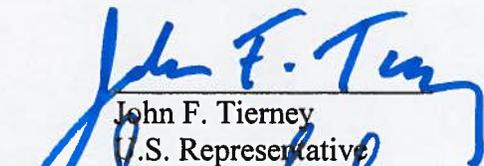
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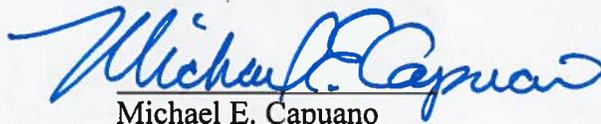
Richard E. Neal
U.S. Representative



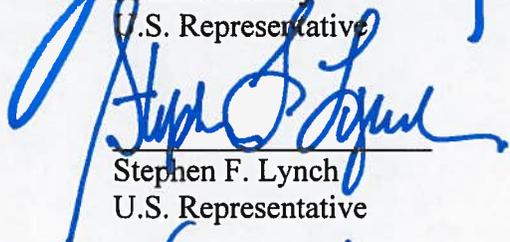
James P. McGovern
U.S. Representative



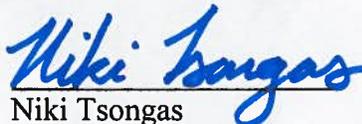
John F. Tierney
U.S. Representative



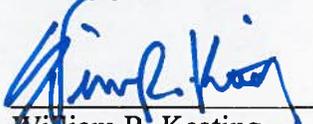
Michael E. Capuano
U.S. Representative



Stephen F. Lynch
U.S. Representative



Niki Tsongas
U.S. Representative



William R. Keating
U.S. Representative



Joseph P. Kennedy III
U.S. Representative