



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY

May 31, 2017

The Honorable Patty Murray
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Murray:

Thank you for your letter regarding Gainful Employment regulations. As you note in your letter, on March 6, 2017, we published Gainful Employment Electronic Announcement #105, announcing that the U.S. Department of Education (Department) would allow additional time, until July 1, 2017, for institutions to submit an alternate earnings appeal to the GE debt-to-earnings rates that we released by the Department on January 9, 2017, and comply with the GE program disclosure requirements. This action was taken to allow the Department to further review the GE regulations and their implementation. In that review process, the Department will consider the potential impact on institutions where GE programs are offered, and other affected parties.

We have some level of concern regarding the gainful employment regulations promulgated by the previous administration and are reviewing them carefully. It is important we put students first and ensure they are provided the best education, service and information possible from all institutions. Ensuring consumer protection for students and families is our priority regardless of institution categorization. We appreciate your thoughtful comments and look forward to working with you as we review the equity and efficacy of these regulations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "James F. Manning", is positioned above the printed name and title.

James F. Manning
Acting Under Secretary