

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 24, 2017

The Honorable Betsy DeVos
Secretary
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20202

Dear Secretary DeVos:

We request data on the outstanding debt relief claims for Minnesota students who were enrolled in for-profit colleges and universities which closed.

As you may know, after a lengthy investigation several for-profit schools closed due to predatory behavior and inadequate curriculum. The Department of Education took two enforcement actions against one such school, Corinthian Colleges, Inc., for widespread misrepresentation of job placement rates.¹ The resulting closures left students in Minnesota with enormous debt which prevents them from engaging in other important investments, such as buying a car or a home. In some of the worst cases, students were left homeless or in bankruptcy.

Data provided to our offices shows there were 1,044 total unapproved borrower defense claims in the state. Of those, 551 are from Corinthian Colleges, Inc., 51 are from ITT Education Services, Inc., and 442 are from other schools. Since January 2017, Minnesota residents have sent in 343 claims; 132 from Corinthian, 21 from ITT and 190 from other schools. Many of these unapproved Corinthian claims are from students who attended during times when the Department of Education was working through processing closed-school and other sources of debt relief for impacted students. However, these students have yet to receive any relief.

In order to better understand how the Department is assisting these affected Minnesota students we ask that you provide our offices with the following information:

1. The status of the 1,044 unapproved borrower defense claims from Minnesota students specifically, the status of the 551 from Corinthian Colleges, Inc., 51 from ITT Education Services, Inc., and 442 from other schools.

2. The number of GI Bill beneficiaries that were enrolled at closed for-profit colleges.
3. An in-district breakdown of the status of the total unapproved and approved borrower defense claims.

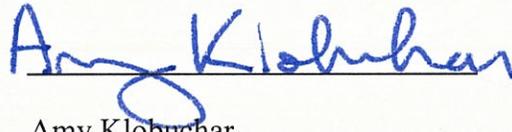
Minnesota students should be awarded debt relief for the harm caused by falsified job placement statistics, inadequate classes, and predatory lending practices. This expedited process is imperative to contribute to the economic stability of our state and the families who are impacted.

Thank you for the consideration of this request. Please respond by November 24th, 2017. You may reach out to Mahyar Sorour on Mr. Ellison's staff at mahyar.sorour@mail.house.gov for more information. We look forward to working with the Department on our shared goals of advancing students livelihood and progress in the future.

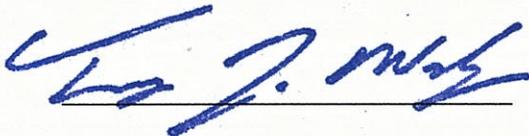
Sincerely,



Keith Ellison
Member of Congress



Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator



Tim Walz
Member of Congress



Richard M. Nolan
Member of Congress



Betty McCollum
Member of Congress

¹ <http://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/department-educationand-attorney-general-kamala-harris-announce-findings-investigation-wyotech-and-everest-programs>; and <https://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/us-department-education-fines-corinthian-colleges-30-million-misrepresentation>