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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION FALLS SHORT ON FINAL RULE

Final proposed Gainful Employment fails to fully protect students at predatory for-profit institutions

WASHINGTON, DC—Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 requires institutions to disclose and report data on eligible education programs that lead to “gainful employment in a recognized occupation.” This morning, the Department of Education released the final Gainful Employment rule.

The rule falls short and reinforces concerns the system is rigged in favor of the industry and special interests, rather than to help students climb the economic ladder. The proposed rule drops the pCDR calculation, meaning schools can saddle non-completers with crushing debt. The United States Student Association (USSA) believes the Department should find innovative ways to provide debt relief for students at for-profits like Corinthian College, where their degrees are rendered virtually meaningless.

“While weak, the rule is certainly better than nothing,” said Maxwell John Love, President of the United States Student Association, “but we need Secretary Duncan to do much, much more to address the waste, fraud, and abuse of taxpayer dollars rampant in the for-profit college sector.”

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The United States Student Association is the nation’s oldest, and largest student association representing 1.5 million student members on issues of higher education access and affordability in Washington, DC.

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