

COALITION FOR INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

Promoting U.S. Global Competence

November 2, 2015

The Honorable Lamar Alexander
Chairman
Committee on Health, Education,
Labor & Pensions
United States Senate

The Honorable Patty Murray
Ranking Member
Committee on Health, Education,
Labor & Pensions
United States Senate

Dear Chairman Alexander and Ranking Member Murray,

We write to endorse the attached amendments proposed by the Association of American International Colleges and Universities (AAICU) to the Higher Education Act–Title I, Sections 101 and 102. AAICU has proposed that the definition of an “institution of higher education” be modified in order to include American colleges and universities abroad that are fully accredited and licensed in the United States, and meet all other requirements for eligibility under the HEA except for the requirement that eligible institutions be physically located within the United States or its territories.

We believe the proposed change is a timely one, because it would enable a small number of American colleges and universities outside the United States to enhance their contribution to internationalizing American education. Though the primary mission of these universities is to educate future leaders in their host countries, they also educate Americans who go abroad to study and conduct research. For example, the amendment would enable more American students to study abroad, particularly those with limited financial resources who depend upon Pell grants or student loans to make college affordable. Opportunities for American students to expand their foreign language fluency, deepen their understanding of foreign cultures, and sharpen their skills in international business and other professions would be broadened through the eligibility of these institutions to participate in the Higher Education Act’s programs.

Today’s interconnected world requires educating American students to prepare them for the global job market, keep America’s competitive edge in world trade, and equip them to address global challenges in cross-cultural contexts. The AAICU proposal is complementary to the Coalition’s own proposals for reauthorization of Title VI, International Education, since it would help to address the rapidly growing national need for Americans with international knowledge and foreign language abilities across employment sectors. The Coalition for International Education therefore fully supports the inclusion of eligibility under HEA as proposed by AAICU.

AAICU Amendments to the Higher Education Act–Title I, Page 2.

Thank you for your consideration of our views.

Submitted by the following organizations:

Alliance for International Educational and Cultural Exchange
American Council on Education
American Councils for International Education
American University of Beirut
Association for Asian Studies
Association for International Business Education and Research
Association of International Education Administrators
Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies
Consortium of Social Science Associations
Council of American Overseas Research Centers
Council of Directors of National Resource Centers
The Forum on Education Abroad
National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities
National Humanities Alliance

Attachment (1)

**AAICU-Proposed Amendment to Title I of the
Higher Education Act of 1965, As Amended**

In the language which follows, existing law is shown in black text and proposed changes are shown in red text.

**TITLE I—GENERAL PROVISIONS
PART A—DEFINITIONS**

SEC. 101. [20 U.S.C. 1001] GENERAL DEFINITION OF INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.

(a) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—For purposes of this Act, other than title IV, the term “institution of higher education” means an educational institution in any State that—

(1) admits as regular students only persons having a certificate of graduation from a school providing secondary education, or the recognized equivalent of such a certificate, or persons who meet the requirements of section 484(d);

(2) is legally authorized within such State to provide a program of education beyond secondary education;

(3) provides an educational program for which the institution awards a bachelor’s degree or provides not less than a 2-year program that is acceptable for full credit toward such a degree, or awards a degree that is acceptable for admission to a graduate or professional degree program, subject to review and approval by the Secretary;

(4) is a public or other nonprofit institution; and

(5) is accredited by a nationally recognized accrediting agency or association, or if not so accredited, is an institution that has been granted preaccreditation status by such an agency or association that has been recognized by the Secretary for the granting of preaccreditation status, and the Secretary has determined that there is satisfactory assurance that the institution will meet the accreditation standards of such an agency or association within a reasonable time.

(b) ADDITIONAL INSTITUTIONS INCLUDED.—For purposes of this Act, other than title IV, the term “institution of higher education” also includes—

(1) any school that provides not less than a 1-year program of training to prepare students for gainful employment in a recognized occupation and that meets the provision of paragraphs (1), (2), (4), and (5) of subsection (a); ~~and~~

(2) a public or nonprofit private educational institution in any State that, in lieu of the requirement in subsection (a)(1), admits as regular students individuals—

(A) who are beyond the age of compulsory school attendance in the State in which the institution is located; or

(B) who will be dually or concurrently enrolled in the institution and a secondary school; *and*

(3) an educational institution that—

(A) meets the requirements of paragraphs (1), (3), (4), and (5) of subsection (a) of this section;

(B) has its principal educational facilities located in a country other than the United States;

(C) uses English as its primary language of instruction;

(D) is legally authorized by a State to provide a program of education beyond secondary education; and

(E) is not controlled by the government of a foreign country.

(c) LIST OF ACCREDITING AGENCIES.—For purposes of this section and section 102, the Secretary shall publish a list of nationally recognized accrediting agencies or associations that the Secretary determines, pursuant to subpart 2 of part H of title IV, to be reliable authority as to the quality of the education or training offered.

SEC. 102. [20 U.S.C. 1002] DEFINITION OF INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION FOR PURPOSES OF TITLE IV PROGRAMS.

(a) DEFINITION OF INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION FOR PURPOSES OF TITLE IV PROGRAMS.—

(1) INCLUSION OF ADDITIONAL INSTITUTIONS.—Subject to paragraphs (2) through (4) of this subsection, the term “institution of higher education” for purposes of title IV includes, in addition to the institutions covered by the definition in section 101—

(A) a proprietary institution of higher education (as defined in subsection (b) of this section);

(B) a postsecondary vocational institution (as defined in subsection (c) of this section); and

(C) only for the purposes of part D of title IV, an institution outside the United States, **except for those institutions which meet the requirements of subsection (b) of section 101**, that is comparable to an institution of higher education as defined in section 101 and that has been approved by the Secretary for the purpose of part D of title IV, consistent with the requirements of section 452(d).