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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION,
LABOR, AND PENSIONS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6300

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<http://help.senate.gov>

November 18, 2013

Nicholas Zeppos
Chancellor
Vanderbilt University
211 Kirkland Hall
Nashville, TN 37420

William Kirwan
Chancellor
University System of Maryland
3300 Metzert Road
Adelphi, MD 20783

Dear Chancellor Zeppos and Chancellor Kirwan:

We are writing today to request your participation as Co-Chairs of a Bipartisan Task Force on Government Regulation of Higher Education. Along with Senator Richard Burr (R-NC) and Senator Michael Bennet (D-CO), we intend to examine the burden of federal regulations and reporting requirements on institutions of higher education.

Our higher education system remains the best in the world and is often credited for its breadth of choice and commitment to institutional autonomy. Over the past decade, however, Congress and the U.S. Department of Education have added more mandates, reporting requirements and regulations with which institutions must comply. This Task Force creates an opportunity to conduct a comprehensive review of federal regulations and reporting requirements affecting colleges and universities and make recommendations to Congress and the Administration to streamline and reduce federal regulations, while at the same time maintaining student and taxpayer protections.

With organizational assistance from the American Council on Education and recommendations from college and university presidents and other higher education stakeholders, the Task Force will:

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- 1) Provide specific recommendations to consolidate, streamline and eliminate burdensome, costly and/or confusing regulations, legislation and reporting requirements;
- 2) Review and quantify the extent of all federal reporting and regulatory requirements that institutions must comply with, including estimates of the time and costs associated with specific regulations and requirements; and
- 3) Provide recommendations for reform to ensure future regulations are promulgated in a manner that appropriately considers existing law and accurately examines the costs and benefits to taxpayers, institutions and students.

We hope that you will accept our invitation to Co-Chair this important Task Force. Should you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Andrew LaCasse in Senator Alexander's office at Andrew_LaCasse@help.senate.gov or 202-224-6770 and Brent Palmer in Senator Mikulski's office at Brent_Palmer@mikulski.senate.gov or 202-224-4654.

Sincerely,



Lamar Alexander
United States Senator



Barbara Mikulski
United States Senator