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COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND LABOR

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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April 23, 2007

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VIA FACSIMILE – 202-401-0596

The Honorable Margaret Spellings

Secretary of Education

U.S. Department of Education

400 Maryland Avenue, SW, Rm. 7W301

Washington, DC 20202

Dear Secretary Spellings:

Recent events pertaining to the operation of our Federal student loan programs and the Reading First program have raised serious questions about the oversight and management activities of the Department of Education. To more fully understand the actions you have taken, as well as future regulatory and legislative actions that are necessary, the Committee will be holding a hearing on these topics on May 2, 2007. I respectfully request that you appear at this hearing to provide testimony on the Department's actions in these areas.

New York Attorney General Andrew Cuomo and others have uncovered disturbing arrangements between institutions of higher education and student lenders. These arrangements have disadvantaged students through higher cost loans with less favorable terms and conditions. While I called on the Department to take steps to immediately respond to these spurious arrangements last week, the Department has yet to provide us with information on how it will respond to this still developing crisis. I request that your testimony focus on the steps the Department has taken in this area and why you feel additional action is not needed at this time.

Additionally, committee investigators have uncovered serious conflicts of interest and mismanagement issues in the Reading First program. As you know, these issues were the subject of a Committee hearing last week. We are troubled by the Department's inadequate oversight of the program during its initial implementation. We request that your testimony also focus on the steps the Department has taken to ensure similar conflicts do not impact Reading First or other Department programs in the future.

The Honorable Margaret Spellings
April 23, 2007
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Pursuant to House Rule XI, Clause 2(g), witnesses testifying before the Committee must meet witness disclosure requirements. Please complete the attached "Truth in Testimony" form and return to Tylease Fitzgerald-Alli of the Committee staff via fax at 202-226-5398. Please provide 50 copies of your testimony, a brief summary of your testimony, a brief biography, and the "Truth in Testimony" form 48 hours prior to the date of the hearing. In addition, the Committee would like to make your written testimony available on our webpage, at <http://edlabor.house.gov/>. To do this, we ask that you send an electronic version of your statement in Microsoft Word format in an email, as an attachment to tylease.alli@mail.house.gov.

Please confirm your attendance at this hearing by having your office contact Ms. Fitzgerald-Alli of the Committee staff at (202) 225-3725. Thank you for your attention to this matter and I look forward to receiving your testimony.

Sincerely,



GEORGE MILLER
Chairman

attachment

Committee on Education and Labor

Witness Disclosure Requirement – “Truth in Testimony”
Required by House Rule XI, Clause 2(g)

Your Name: _____

	Yes	No
1. Will you be representing a federal, State, or local government entity? (If the answer is yes please contact the Committee).		
2. Please list any federal grants or contracts (including subgrants or subcontracts) which <u>you</u> have received since October 1, 2004: 		
3. Will you be representing an entity other than a government entity?	Yes	No
4. Other than yourself, please list what entity or entities you will be representing: 		
5. Please list any offices or elected positions held and/or briefly describe your representational capacity with each of the entities you listed in response to question 4: 		
6. Please list any federal grants or contracts (including subgrants or subcontracts) received by the entities you listed in response to question 4 since October 1, 2004, including the source and amount of each grant or contract: 		
7. Are there parent organizations, subsidiaries, or partnerships to the entities you disclosed in response to question number 4 that you will not be representing? If so, please list:	Yes	No

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Please attach this sheet to your written testimony.