

September 18, 2024

U.S. House Committee on Education & the Workforce 2176 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Members of the House Committee on Education & the Workforce,

I am writing to emphasize the critical importance of H.R. 3724, the End Woke Higher Education Act. This legislation is an essential step in restoring the fundamental purpose of higher education: to foster free inquiry and equip students to think critically and independently.

As an advocate for responsible governance, academic quality, and viewpoint diversity in higher education, the James G. Martin Center for Academic Renewal is deeply committed to ensuring that our academic institutions remain bastions of free speech and intellectual inquiry. However, recent trends indicate a troubling erosion of these fundamental principles within our institutions of higher learning.

Too many institutions have prioritized ideological conformity over academic excellence. Accreditation bodies and universities have increasingly promoted diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) initiatives that risk undermining intellectual diversity and free expression. The result has been a chilling effect on speech, threatening the First Amendment rights of students and faculty alike.

H.R. 3724 addresses these issues by ensuring that accreditation standards do not compel institutions to adopt specific political or ideological viewpoints and by safeguarding free speech on campuses. By reinforcing these core values, the bill preserves the integrity of American higher education and protects the constitutional rights of students, faculty, and staff.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter. Should you have any questions or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact me at 919-523-1765 or jarobinson@jamesgmartin.center.

Sincerely,

Jenna A. Robinson President