



June 17, 2024

The Honorable Miguel Cardona  
Secretary of Education  
U.S. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20202

Re: Concerns and Recommendations Regarding New Financial Value Transparency and Gainful Employment Regulations

Dear Secretary Cardona,

Nightingale College is a for-profit institution dedicated to providing high-quality nursing education and career advancement opportunities to a diverse nationwide student body. We appreciate the U.S. Department of Education's (the Department) commitment to enhancing accountability and transparency in higher education. However, we have significant concerns regarding the new financial value transparency and gainful employment regulations implementation processes, and we appreciate the Department's request for comment on the following points:

**1. Necessity of Data Collection:**

It is questionable whether the extensive data collection required by these regulations is necessary for the Department to achieve its goals. While accountability is crucial, the proposed metrics do not comprehensively capture the multifaceted value of education, particularly in career-focused and non-traditional programs. The Department should consider more targeted data collection methods that align closely with its core functions without imposing undue burdens on institutions.

**2. Timeliness of Data Processing and Utilization:**

The effectiveness of the proposed regulations hinges on the timely processing and utilization of the collected information. We have significant concerns that the data being requested is not up to date and will not provide an accurate depiction of an institution's



(801) 689-2160



95 South State St, Suite 400  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84111

status. Further, the recent delays in FAFSA processing have emphasized concerns about potential delays and the subsequent impact on students and institution operations. It is imperative that the Department ensures adequate infrastructure and resources are in place, prior to collection, to handle and analyze these data efficiently, allowing institutions to make timely adjustments and improvements. We strongly encourage the Department to delay the required reporting deadline beyond the current date of October 31, 2024, to allow both the Department and the institutions time to ensure reliable and efficient processes are available and functioning properly, and to ensure the data collected are up to date and relevant.

### **3. Accuracy of Burden Estimates:**

The current estimates of the administrative and financial burdens associated with compliance do not fully reflect the realities faced by institutions of higher learning. The time and resources required for data collection, reporting, and compliance could be substantial, diverting attention from educational and support services. A more accurate assessment of these burdens is essential to understand the true impact on college and university operations.

### **4. Enhancing Quality, Utility, and Clarity:**

To enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information collected, the Department must engage in a collaborative process with stakeholders, including for-profit institutions. This collaboration will lead to the development of metrics that better reflect educational outcomes and student success across diverse programs. Clear guidelines and definitions are crucial in ensuring that the collected data are meaningful and actionable.

### **5. Minimizing Burden Through Information Technology:**

The Department can significantly minimize the burden on respondents by leveraging modern information technology solutions. Streamlined data submission processes, automated reporting tools, and integrated systems reduce manual workload and improve data accuracy. The use of such technologies will help institutions comply more efficiently while maintaining focus on educational quality and student support. We encourage the Department to delay reporting requirements until such processes and systems are in place, tested, and functioning properly.

In conclusion, while we support the Department's objective of enhancing educational accountability, we urge a reconsideration of the current regulatory approach. We



propose a balanced framework that upholds accountability across the industry without imposing excessive burdens on institutions. By working together, we can develop more effective measures that truly benefit students and educational institutions alike.

We respectfully request the Department delay the required submission date until these concerns can be better addressed and until proper processes and systems are in place and functioning correctly. We welcome the opportunity to discuss these concerns further and contribute to a regulatory framework that is equitable and beneficial for all stakeholders. Thank you for considering our perspective on this critical issue.

Sincerely,



Blake Halladay, RN  
Director, Regulatory & Legislative Strategy  
Nightingale Education Group

