



February 09, 2022

The Honorable Chuck Schumer  
Senate Majority Leader  
322 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Senate Minority Leader  
317 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Leader Schumer and Leader McConnell:

As the Senate works to resolve the differences between the *United States Innovation and Competition Act* and the *America Creating Opportunities for Manufacturing, Pre-Eminence in Technology, and Economic Strength (COMPETES) Act of 2022* in conference, AccessLex Institute urges you to retain the College Transparency provision in the *America COMPETES Act* that establishes a data system at the Department of Education to improve postsecondary student academic and economic outcomes.

AccessLex Institute, in partnership with its nearly 200 nonprofit and state-affiliated ABA-approved member law schools, has been committed to improving access to legal education and to maximizing the affordability and value of a law degree since 1983. The AccessLex Center for Legal Education Excellence advocates for policies that make legal education work better for students and society alike and conducts research on the most critical issues facing legal education today.

As you know, Congress banned the creation of a student-level data system in 2008. Currently, universities only report institution-level data, which fails to adequately capture and evaluate outcomes for students in any targeted way. This results in fragmented data for large subsections of students, including graduate and professional students. The College Transparency provision, which was offered as an amendment by Representatives Andy Levin (D-MI-09), Anthony Gonzales (R-OH-16), and Raja Krishnamoorthi (D-IL-08), is modeled after the *College Transparency Act* which received broad bipartisan support in both the House and Senate. This provision would provide disaggregated data that would help students and families make better informed decisions about higher education.

AccessLex Institute recognizes the concerns related to privacy and security that accompany any data sharing initiative, but notes that the provision includes several measures to protect students against privacy violations. Included is a ban on the sale of student data, a prohibition on access by law enforcement, and a limitation on personally identifiable information. It also bars a federal college ranking or ratings system.

During conference committee, we urge you to retain the College Transparency provision in the *America COMPETES Act*. Such a change to the law will go a long way in providing students, colleges and policymakers with much needed information to make crucial decisions.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at [cchapman@accesslex.org](mailto:cchapman@accesslex.org) or Nancy Conneely, Managing Director of Policy, at [nconneely@accesslex.org](mailto:nconneely@accesslex.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Chris P. Chapman".

Christopher P. Chapman  
President and Chief Executive Officer

cc: The Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the House  
The Honorable Kevin McCarthy, House Minority Leader