



March 16, 2011

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The Honorable Judith Zaffirini  
Chair, Senate Higher Education Committee  
Members, Senate Higher Education Committee  
P.O. Box 12068, Capitol Station  
Sam Houston Building, Room 320  
Austin, TX 78711

Dear Chairwoman Zaffirini & Members of the Senate Higher Education Committee:

On behalf of DeVry University and Chamberlain College of Nursing, thank you for the opportunity to support SB 38 (Zaffirini).

In our 80th year nationwide and 42nd in Texas, DeVry University offers high-quality, career-oriented associate, baccalaureate and graduate degree programs in technology, healthcare technology, business and management to Texas students both onsite at our Houston, San Antonio, Austin, Ft. Worth, Irving and Richardson campuses and online. With more than 13,000 alumni residing in Texas, we are honored to call Texas home.

We are also pleased to share that our sister institution, Chamberlain College of Nursing, with over 122 years of experience as a single-purpose nursing school, enrolled its inaugural Texas class in Houston only weeks ago.

Both DeVry University and Chamberlain College of Nursing are committed to partnering with the Texas Legislature and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) to close educational gaps across the state. It has been DeVry University's practice to share information with the THECB and we applaud efforts to formalize this practice.

By affording an apples-to-apples comparison of like situated institutions, we hope to not only further the state's efforts to close educational and achievement gaps across the state but also learn from and share educational best practices across all sectors of higher education.

We seek to work closely with the THECB to integrate private sector colleges and universities into the accountability system. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact me if we may be of additional assistance at 630.353.3791 or [hstanglebertram@devry.edu](mailto:hstanglebertram@devry.edu).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Helena Stangle Bertram".

Helena Stangle Bertram  
Sr. Director of Government Relations & Public Policy  
DeVry Inc.



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UNIVERSITY OF PHOENIX TESTIMONY  
BEFORE THE SENATE HIGHER EDUCATION COMMITTEE  
SB 38 – MARCH 16, 2011

Madame Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Chris Helmueller, State Vice President of North Texas, for the University of Phoenix. I'm pleased for the opportunity to address you today in support of Senate Bill 38.

The University has had the honor of providing quality, affordable, accessible programs in undergraduate and graduate programs through our current 18 locations in Texas. We've been serving students since 2001 under the oversight of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board and since 2009 annually have been reporting data that would become statutory reporting requirements via the passage of SB 38. The inclusion of data on our Texas students in the higher education accountability system aligns with our commitment to be transparent and accountable and provides students the opportunity to make an informed decision about where they wish to pursue their educational goals. SB 38 promotes transparency among all institutions in Texas.

According to the U.S. Department of Education, working learners face even greater challenges toward college success because of traits that characterize them as non-traditional students; therefore, making an informed choice about where to attend college is critical. Non-traditional students often have full-time jobs and are parents, spouses, caregivers, and active members of the military. They and all students should have access to data that allows them to explore all of the higher education options available to them.

We are committed to being leaders in higher education, accountability and robust student protections and support measures that strengthen the quality and integrity of information and ultimately student educational experiences. We are proud of our record of leadership in the field of higher education with respect to the transparency of outcomes, as demonstrated through the publication of our Academic Annual Reports; and look forward to working with the Board to establish appropriate requirements for institutions in our sector while improving higher education across all sectors.

Thank You.

**Footnote for ED study:**

"Undergraduates with Non-traditional Characteristics," U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, National Postsecondary Student Aid Study (NPSAS), 2000. See also National Center for Education Statistics, Table C-Percentage of 1999-2000 undergraduates with various risk factors, and the average number of risk factors. Retrieved



The Career Colleges & Schools of Texas, the largest statewide stakeholders association representing private sector colleges and universities, supports Senate Bill 38 and looks forward to continuing our ongoing partnership with the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board during its implementation.

Our member schools meet regularly with officials from Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to discuss how data from our graduates can best serve the state's purposes. Senate Bill 38 will work to categorize our sector and advance the valuable statistics of our institutions offering baccalaureate and associate degrees to students across the state.

CCST supports Chair Zaffirini efforts and stands as a resource for Madam Chair and the Senate Higher Education committee as a whole. Thank you.