

Excerpt of NEA's response to American Council of Education letter of support for H.R. 3077

Our enthusiasm for the legislation is strongly tempered by some of the specific provisions surrounding the proposed International Education Advisory Board. We support the creation of a well-structured advisory board for the Title VI international education programs because we believe that such a body will be a forum for discussions about international education and will contribute fresh ideas for improvements in federal policies and programs. However, we are very concerned that, as drafted, the proposed Advisory Board does not meet this standard and may have unintended consequences.

We believe the current legislation leaves open the possibility that the Advisory Board could intrude into the academic conduct and content of higher education and could impinge on institutional decisions about curriculum and activities. Indeed, the powers vested in the proposed Advisory Board make it more of an investigative, rather than an advisory body.

In response to our concerns, several important changes were made in the structure and authority of the Advisory Board during committee consideration and we are grateful for these modifications. We will continue to work with the members and staff of the Education and the Workforce Committee to address our remaining concerns. We hope that as this bill moves through the legislative process that the Advisory Board provisions will be modified in such a way that we can offer unqualified support for this legislation.