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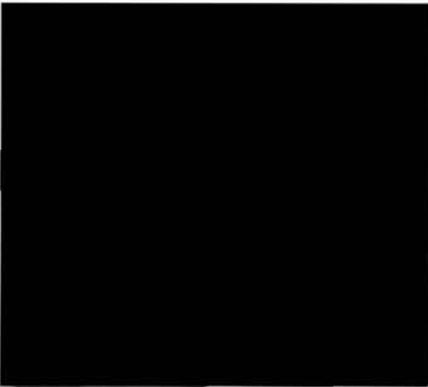
Macias, Wendy

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2009 6:18 PM
To: negreg09
Subject: ATTENTION: Wendy Macias
Attachments: Letter to Wendy Macias from [REDACTED].pdf

Good day Ms. Macias:

Attached please find a letter from [REDACTED]
If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you



Ross University
Thomas C. Shepherd,
DHA, FACHE
President

Administrative Offices
630 US Highway 1
North Brunswick, NJ 08902



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UNIVERSITY

EST 1978

June 19, 2009

Ms. Wendy Macias
U. S. Department of Education
1990K Street, N.W., Room 8017
Washington, DC 20006

Dear Ms. Macias:

On behalf of the students, faculty and staff of Ross University School of Medicine, thank you for the opportunity to provide written comments concerning the forthcoming negotiated rulemaking process. Ross University seeks to partner with the Department and participate in the negotiated rulemaking panels convening as a result of the June 2009 hearings.

Ross, based in Dominica, has provided a high quality program of medical education since 1978. Ross students study year-round and can complete pre-clinical studies in 16 months. Upon completing four semesters of pre-clinical studies in Dominica, students return to the U. S. for clinical clerkships. Students complete their clinical education at nearly 70 U.S.-based affiliated teaching hospitals. Once students complete the clinical program and pass the U.S. Medical Licensure Examination *Step 1 and 2 Knowledge* and *Step 2 Clinical Skills*, they are awarded the M.D. degree.

Ross University supports recent amendments to the Higher Education Act of 1965 that require foreign graduate medical schools to achieve at least a 75 percent pass rate on examinations. This fifteen percent increase from previous required pass rates illustrates a move toward more accountable and high-quality medical education opportunities for qualified students.

In 2008, Ross University students achieved a USMLE *Step 1* pass rate of 93 percent. For Ross students with a GPA greater than 2.5, the USMLE first-time pass rate was 97 percent. More than 90 percent of the Ross students are American citizens. Ross graduates obtain residency appointments in virtually every medical specialty and subspecialty at leading teaching hospitals across the U.S.

We understand that Secretary Duncan's medical expert advisory panel must submit to the Secretary and congressional authorizing committees recommendations regarding foreign medical school Title IV eligibility requirements and proposed minimum standards. As a high-quality foreign medical institution with a demonstrated history of successful student outcomes, we seek to participate in the formulation of regulations ranging from graduation, retention, pass rates, residency placement and quality assessment requirements.

According to the Health Resources and Services Administration, there will be a shortage of approximately 55,000 physicians in the U.S. by 2020. Ross University and its almost 7,000 alumni are committed to addressing this looming physician's shortage.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

[Redacted signature block]