

Massachusetts HB 38 Sample Letter

Representative
State House
Room
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Representative,

I am writing to express my concern about HB 38; legislation that has been filed that would transfer the responsibility for oversight of private occupational schools from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (ESE) to the Division of Professional Licensure (DPL) within the Office of Consumer Affairs and Business Regulation.

If passed this bill would also:

- Repeal the one hundred thousand dollar cap on a career school surety bond and allow for an open-ended bond;
- Allow the Office of Proprietary Schools to raise the surety bond at will, instead of by statute, as is currently the case;
- Give the Office of Proprietary Schools the ability to change the way a school develops its curriculum and hires faculty; and
- Give the Office of Proprietary Schools greater enforcement authority, the ability to raise revenue and impose new civil penalties.

My school is a post secondary institution of higher learning just like any other college, community college, junior college, and non-profit private school located within the state. We believe the Office of Proprietary Schools should move from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. However, we also believe it makes more sense for the office to move to the Massachusetts Department of Higher Education.

We believe that the additional oversight and enforcement authority provided by this legislation is excessive. We certainly understand and applaud Governor Patrick's plan to reduce redundant state oversight. However, we believe that the Office of Proprietary Schools should be a supportive professional partner engaged in pursuit of educational excellence, not an agency primarily concerned with its consumer protection function.

We respectfully ask that you vote against passage of HB 38.

Sincerely