

Massachusetts HB 3512 Sample Letter

Representative
State House
Room
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Representative,

I am writing to express my concern about HB 3512, the legislation that would repeal the one hundred thousand dollar cap on surety bonds and 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

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.

Moreover, repealing the one hundred thousand dollar cap on a career school surety bond and allowing for an open-ended bond could result in an exorbitant increase in costs. Currently a surety bond costs approximately \$25.00 per one thousand in coverage. For a \$100,000 bond that cost totals \$2,500. However, if a school were required to obtain a \$500,000 bond that cost increases to \$12,500. For a \$1,000,000 surety bond the cost would be \$25,000.

The bill, formerly HB38, has been reported favorably from the Committee on Higher Education and referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means.

We respectfully ask that you vote against passage of HB 3512.

Sincerely