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FAX HEAD SHEET

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FROM: Jubrie Rolfe

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April 02, 2011

Dear Senator Harkin and Staff,

Greetings to you all from Sioux City, Iowa. This letter comes to you with great concerns regarding the practices of for-profit educational institutions, with these concerns ranging from recruitment practices to mentoring help for job-seeking alumni. Furthermore, it will detail the personal experience that I have had with a well-known for-profit college, the University of Phoenix. The high-hopes and dreams of a career in pharmaceuticals upon completion of my degree have now been replaced with worries that I will never become employed in the field of pharmacy, let alone be able to repay my student loans.

As a stay-at-home mother of two children, the choice was made for me to go back to school in 2008. This decision was made by my husband and me with the goal of me becoming employed in the field by the time that my youngest child began preschool. I began the search for a school, and decided that taking online instruction would be the best choice for me, as it would allow me to remain at home with my kids. I researched various colleges, and settled on the University of Phoenix based upon two main factors: it was an accredited school, and it offered an online pharmacy program.

Within a couple hours of completing my online application for information regarding the University of Phoenix's programs, a recruitment representative called my home to discuss my options for enrollment with me. This discussion included reassurance that their pharmacy program was an acceptable form of training to pharmacies all over the country, and that a prior felony conviction from my teenage years would not hinder me from gaining employment as a pharmacy technician once I completed my degree. I was ecstatic, as this meant that I would be working towards a rewarding career, showing my children what can be accomplished with hard work, being at home with them during their formative years, and also bringing in a small amount of money to alleviate my husband's bill-related stress. It was a win-win situation, for sure!

I enrolled with Axia College of the University of Phoenix and began my schooling in August, 2008. It came with much self-discipline and effort that I completed my Associate's degree in Pharmacy Practice in the summer of 2010 with a 3.61 GPA. Never during the course of those two years did I receive a grade below a B, and this is something that I was and am still very proud of, regardless of my current inability to gain employment as a pharmacy technician.

I ask you, Senator Harkin, to present this letter as proof of the illegal practices that are being done in the areas of recruiting, the disclosure or lack thereof of accreditation to particular programs, and the promise of receiving help to gain employment through the alumni association. All of which occurred to me during my enrollment at this for-profit college. President Obama's Moms Return to School Scholarship has proved to be more of a hindrance than a help to me, as it has now left me with a jaw-clinching debt of \$27,000 that I owe to the federal government. Here's the kicker: I am not allowed to take the required licensing test because I have a felony on my record, and also because the pharmacy program itself, at the accredited University of Phoenix, is not an

accredited program.

So, it stands that after all my time, effort, and hardwork, I am left with a \$27,000 leather-bound piece of paper that states that I am qualified to do the job of a pharmacy technician but, am unable to gain employment in the field. I propose that the countless numbers of "newly-educated" moms who have found themselves in the same situation as me be forgiven of the debt that incurred during the timeframe of these years, as the new bill surely created an opportunity for these schools to fraudulently recruit students, thereby lining their pockets with more money. Do not let them get away with this any longer! I beg of every senator to see that these wrongs are set to rights!

Although current efforts are being made to eliminate the fees paid to private banks providing student loans, this does nothing to help my situation. The overhaul of the Student Loan Program seems to reflect the phrase "a day late, and a dollar short", as it does not help all those who were affected by the loopholes of the first bill which allowed these colleges a new way to increase their profit margins without any repercussions to their institutions. I implore you to use haste in this matter, as my family is now hanging by a proverbial thread.

Sincerely,



Aubrie L. Roupe