

February 17, 2022



Dear Colleague:

The House-passed [America COMPETES Act](#) includes an [amendment](#) incorporating the [College Transparency Act \(CTA\)](#), a bill that would establish a federal student unit record data system. Despite improvements to the CTA during the past decade of debate, NAICU continues to have long-standing [privacy concerns](#). Specifically, we believe that a federal student unit record data system would violate the confidentiality of students' personal information and therefore support an approach such as the one outlined in an [alternative bill](#) instead.

In addition to privacy concerns, NAICU is also worried about the potential regulatory burden of the CTA. Recently, a number of NAICU members expressed their views that the bill's data collection and reporting requirements may substantially increase both administrative costs and regulatory burdens for their institutions. As a result, NAICU is requesting your feedback to help us better understand and communicate the impact such a provision would have on your institution and, if you deem appropriate, share that assessment with your members of Congress.

Currently, the Senate version of the underlying bill – the [U.S. Innovation and Competition Act \(USICA\)](#) – does not contain the CTA amendment, but a House-Senate conference committee will soon be appointed to determine whether to include a federal student unit record data system in the final legislation. Because these negotiations may move quickly, we are asking you to:

1. **Determine the potential impact of the [legislation](#) on your institution.** In particular, we recommend that you inform relevant campus officials, which may include your information technology and research staff, registrars, and financial aid staff, of the possibility that the CTA will be included in the final House-Senate compromise. This will help you gain a more complete understanding of how your campus would be affected if the bill were enacted.
2. **Share your feedback with NAICU.** Given that we are well aware of the privacy concerns with the bill, we are primarily interested in learning more about the burdens or costs it may impose, such as how the bill would affect your staffing needs, data systems, budget, and more. If you believe the bill would ultimately reduce the administrative burden on your institution, as some bill proponents believe, we want to hear that feedback as well. Please direct your questions or comments to Jody Feder, NAICU's director of accountability and regulatory affairs, at jody@naicu.edu.
3. **Contact your members of Congress.** If you have strong views about how the bill would impact your institution, you should make them known to your elected representatives. Be specific when you share those views. If you do reach out to your members of Congress, please keep Jody updated on those efforts.

Thank you in advance for helping to inform us of your perspective on this issue and for all you do for higher education.

Regards,

Barbara

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President

National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities