



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

THE UNDER SECRETARY

January 18, 2017

The Honorable Richard J. Durbin
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Durbin:

Thank you for your inquiry regarding the status of borrower defense relief for former students at Westwood College (Westwood). We are in receipt of the Illinois Attorney General's letter of November 28, 2016 requesting relief for Illinois students who attended Westwood's criminal justice program. We also have received voluminous supporting materials from her office, as well as her follow-up letter to this Office on January 4, 2017.

The Enforcement Office's Borrower Defense Unit has initiated its review of the Westwood evidence and looks forward to continuing its review and analysis of the materials submitted in support of the Attorney General's request. Unfortunately, the team's limited resources and its consideration of relief for other schools did not allow it to complete review of these materials in time to make any recommendation as part of the borrower defense relief the Department announced last week.

It is my intention that the borrower defense team continues its work with respect to Westwood, which also will include review of the 148 claims received to date from Westwood students. We look forward to the determination of any appropriate relief for Westwood students.

As always, I remain deeply concerned about any fraud perpetrated by a college upon its students, and we very much appreciate the efforts of the Illinois Attorney General. I expect that the Borrower Defense Unit will continue to reach out to her office as our investigation into Westwood and its alleged misconduct progresses.

Thank you again for inquiring about borrower defense relief for Westwood students. We greatly appreciate your support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "TM", with a stylized flourish above it.

Ted Mitchell