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May 28, 2010

Kathleen S. Tighe
Inspector General
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20202-1510

Dear Ms. Tighe:

Thank you for your recent letter soliciting suggestions for your Work Plan for Fiscal Year 2011. During this period of massive deficit spending, your efforts to root out waste, fraud, and abuse have never been more critical. I respectfully direct your attention to the following questions, which I believe merit oversight by your office.

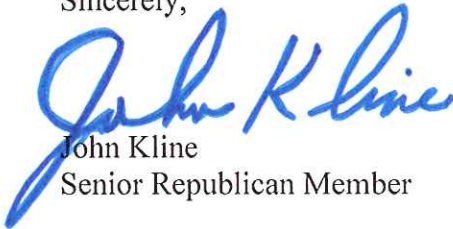
- 1) Do states and local educational agencies that receive funds under the Race to the Top and Investing in Innovation programs spend those funds in a manner consistent with their approved grant applications?
- 2) Is the Department of Education's scoring rubric for the Race to the Top program methodologically sound based on prevailing standards among professional researchers?
- 3) What steps, if any, have been or should be taken by the Department of Education to remedy waste, fraud, and abuse uncovered in the Government Accountability Office's reports on Low-Income and Minority Serving Institutions and spending under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act?
- 4) Are the Department of Education's communications and activities with regard to the Common Core State Standards Initiative consistent with the statutory prohibition on federal agencies directing, supervising, or exercising control over state education curriculum (*see e.g.* 20 U.S.C. § 1232a)?
- 5) Did Department of Education officials violate the statutory prohibitions on lobbying (Sec. 503 of Title V of Division D of Public Law 111-117; 18 U.S.C. §1913) by asking states to

chronicle their anticipated reliance on supplemental education appropriations proposed by some members of the majority party in Congress?

- 6) Is the Department of Education implementing the transition to the Direct Loan program in a way that comports with the law and with minimal costs? Is the Department of Education disbursing student loans in an efficient manner under the Direct Loan program?

If you have any questions, please contact James Bergeron or Kirk Boyle on my staff at 202-225-4527. Thank you for the important work you do to ensure taxpayer dollars are spent in accordance with the law.

Sincerely,



John Kline
Senior Republican Member