

FRANK R. WOLF
10TH DISTRICT, VIRGINIA



233 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-4610
(202) 225-5136

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

SUBCOMMITTEES:

CHAIRMAN—COMMERCE-JUSTICE-SCIENCE

TRANSPORTATION-HUD

STATE AND FOREIGN OPERATIONS

CO-CHAIR—TOM LANTOS
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
January 22, 2014

13873 PARK CENTER ROAD
SUITE 130
HERNDON, VA 20171
(703) 709-5800
(800) 945-9653 (IN STATE)

110 NORTH CAMERON STREET
WINCHESTER, VA 22601
(540) 667-0990
(800) 850-3463 (IN STATE)

wolf.house.gov

The Honorable John Kline
U.S. House Committee on Education and the Workforce
2181 Rayburn House Office Building
Inside Mail
Washington D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Kline:

I have long been concerned about campus safety and have worked to provide resources to make campuses safer for students and faculty. I recently was made aware of an issue with a provision in the Clery Act, specifically the limitations associated with using mobile phone-based emergency communication to alert students about possible threats impacting campuses.

As you know, a Clery Act provision requires schools to have a mechanism that send emergency alert messages in a timely manner. However, there is no requirement that the messages are actually *received* in a timely manner. It is my understanding that there may be other communications alternatives to address this unintended consequence of the text of the Act.

In order to ensure that emergency alerts on college campuses are both sent and received by students on time, it is important to consider the use of broadcast technology on college campuses, which enables a one-to-many alert system that can be sent and received simultaneously by an unlimited number of recipients.

I have also written to the Department of Education, the Federal Communication Commission and the National Telecommunications & Information Administration within the Department of Commerce on this issue, and was encouraged to reach out to you. As your committee continues its work this year, I respectfully ask that you fully consider campus safety communications alternatives, including broadcast technology, as part of reauthorization of the Higher Education Act (HEA). Thank you for your consideration.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,

Frank R. Wolf
Member of Congress