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More than 21,000 Activists Urge the Department of Education to Withhold Federal Aid from Schools that Use Forced Arbitration to Deny Students' Legal Rights

A total of 21,422 members and supporters of Public Citizen and Americans for Financial Reform, whose names are gathered in the attached document, signed onto the following statement regarding the Public Citizen petition to the Department of Education requesting that the department prohibit educational institutions, as a condition of receipt of Title IV assistance, from including forced arbitration clauses in student contracts:

We, the undersigned, call on the Department of Education to require, as a condition of receiving federal funding, that colleges agree not to use pre-dispute arbitration clauses in contracts with students and their families. Students should not have to sacrifice their day in court for a day in the classroom.

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Public Citizen is a national non-profit organization with more than 400,000 members and supporters. We represent the public interest through lobbying, litigation, administrative advocacy, research and public education on a broad range of issues including consumer rights in the marketplace, product safety, worker rights, workplace safety, financial regulation, safe and affordable health care, campaign finance reform and government ethics, fair trade, climate change and corporate and government accountability. Learn more at citizen.org.

Americans for Financial Reform is an unprecedented coalition of more than 200 national, state and local groups who have come together to reform the financial industry. Members of our coalition include consumer, civil rights, investor, retiree, community, labor, faith based and business groups. Learn more at ourfinancialsecurity.org.