



THE SECRETARY OF EDUCATION
WASHINGTON, DC 20202

December 10, 2018

Honorable Robert Plaga
Minister of Education, Youth and Sports
Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports
Karmelitska 529/5
118 12 Praha 1
Czechia 11812

Dear Dr. Plaga:

The National Committee on Foreign Medical Education and Accreditation (NCFMEA) met on September 26-27, 2018. One of the agenda items was to evaluate the documents submitted by the Accreditation Commission, Czechia, submitted on behalf of the Government of Czechia, describing the current standards and processes used to accredit medical schools in your country.

The purpose of the NCFMEA's review was to determine the comparability of accreditation standards and processes applied to medical schools in Czechia to the system used to accredit medical schools in the United States (U.S.). Under U.S. law, accredited medical schools in a country that NCFMEA deems comparable may apply to participate in the U.S. William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan (Direct Loan) program. Then, if a medical school participates in the Direct Loan program, U.S. students attending the school may apply for Direct Loans to help cover educational expenses. For more information about foreign schools' participation in the Direct Loan program, access the Foreign School Information Web page at: <https://ifap.ed.gov/ForeignSchoolInfo/ForeignSchoolInfo.html>.

The NCFMEA wishes to thank David Sedmera, Charles University, First Faculty of Medicine, for attending the meeting to provide additional information regarding Czechia and the Accreditation Commission's accreditation process. His testimony was very helpful, and the Committee valued his participation in the meeting.

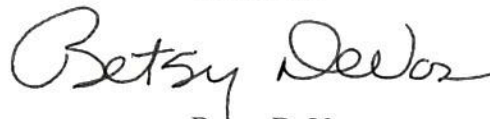
The NCFMEA determined that it needs additional information in order to make its decision regarding the comparability of the standards used by the Accreditation Commission to accredit medical schools in Czechia. In particular, the NCFMEA requires documentation addressing the two areas of concern outlined in the staff analysis and relating to the Commission's standards and review of clinical clerkships and patient care, and how the Commission uses information from its annual reports to make accreditation decisions. NCFMEA further requires a report of the Commission's newly established standards by no later than 2019.

The U.S. Department of Education will contact the Accreditation Commission, Czechia before the fall 2019 NCFMEA meeting regarding the preparation and submission of the material. If you

have any questions about the meeting, please contact Jennifer Hong, NCFMEA Executive Director, at jennifer.hong@ed.gov.

Thank you for providing the information regarding the country's accreditation of medical schools. We appreciate your ongoing interest in maintaining high-quality standards for medical education.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Betsy DeVos". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of each word being capitalized and prominent.

Betsy DeVos

cc: U.S. Department of State, Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs, Czechia Desk Officer