



THE SECRETARY OF EDUCATION
WASHINGTON, DC 20202

October 24, 2016

Honorable Ronald Jones
Minister of Education, Science, Technology and Innovation
The Elsie Payne Complex
Constitution Road, St. Michael
Barbados, West Indies

Dear Mr. Jones:

On September 19, 2016, the National Committee on Foreign Medical Education and Accreditation (NCFMEA) met to evaluate the documents submitted by the Caribbean Accreditation Authority for Education in Medicine and other Health Professions (CAAM-HP) on behalf of the Government of Barbados 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 the country's medical accreditation system for Doctor of Medicine programs, or the equivalent, to the system used to accredit such programs in the United States (U.S.). Under U.S. law, accredited schools in a country that NCFMEA finds 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 <http://ifap.ed.gov/ForeignSchoolInfo/ForeignSchoolInfo.html>.

The NCFMEA reviewed the information submitted regarding CAAM-HP's accreditation activities on behalf of the Government of Barbados for an initial determination of comparability. The NCFMEA wishes to thank V. Eudine Barriteau, University of the West Indies; June Chandler, Permanent Secretary; Mrs. Lorna Parkins, Executive Director, CAAM-HP; and yourself, for attending the meeting to provide additional information regarding Barbados and CAAM-HP's accreditation activities. The testimony was very helpful, and the Committee valued the participation in the meeting.

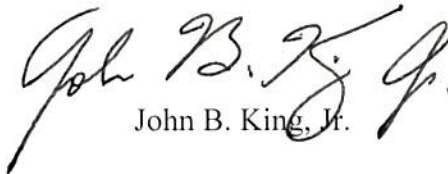
I am pleased to inform you that the NCFMEA has determined that the standards and processes used by CAAM-HP to accredit medical schools in Barbados are comparable to those used to accredit medical schools in the U.S. The NCFMEA requests that CAAM-HP, on behalf of the Government of Barbados, submit an update report for the fall 2018 NCFMEA meeting as to whether CAAM-HP's proposed changes to its standards have been accepted.

The U.S. Department of Education will contact CAAM-HP and the Government of Barbados several months before the fall 2018 NCFMEA meeting regarding the preparation and submission of the report.

If you have any questions about the meeting, please contact Jennifer Hong, NCFMEA Executive Director, at jennifer.hong@ed.gov or Patricia Howes, Committee Coordinator, at patricia.howes@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,



John B. King, Jr.

cc: Mrs. Lorna Parkins, CAAM-HP
U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs, Barbados Desk Office