



THE SECRETARY OF EDUCATION
WASHINGTON, DC 20202

October 24, 2016

Honorable Naftali Bennett
Minister of Education
Chairman, Council for Higher Education
P.O.B. 4037
Jerusalem 91040
Israel

Dear Mr. Bennett:

On September 19, 2016, the National Committee on Foreign Medical Education and Accreditation (NCFMEA) met to evaluate the documents submitted by the Council for Higher Education on behalf of the Government of Israel 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 the Council for Higher Education accreditation activities on behalf of the Government of Israel for a redetermination of comparability. The NCFMEA wishes to thank Michael Diamond for attending the meeting to provide additional information regarding both Israel and the Council for Higher Education's accreditation activities. 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 Council for Higher Education to accredit medical schools in Israel. Therefore, the NCFMEA will defer its comparability determination until its spring 2018 meeting, pending receipt of the following specific information:

- the country's updated standards in conformance with the World Federation for Medical Education (WFME) standards, and specifically, with the NCFMEA Guidelines;
- the country's updated standards with respect to the supervision of clinical sites;

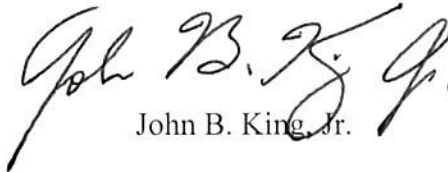
- the country's updated standards with respect to the collection of student performance data; and
- the country's updated standards with respect to the utilization and consideration of admission test data.

During the deferral, the NCFMEA's prior determination of comparability remains in effect. The U.S. Department of Education will contact Israel's Council for Higher Education several months before the spring 2018 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 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: U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs, Israel Desk Office