



THE SECRETARY OF EDUCATION  
WASHINGTON, DC 20202

November 20, 2017

Honorable Steadroy O. Benjamin  
Attorney General  
Ministry of Justice and Legal Affairs  
Government Complex  
Parliament Drive  
St. John's  
Antigua

Dear Mr. Benjamin:

On September 21, 2017, the National Committee on Foreign Medical Education and Accreditation (NCFMEA) met to evaluate the documents submitted by the Government of Antigua and Barbuda describing the current standards and processes used to accredit medical schools in your country.

The purpose of NCFMEA's review was to monitor the continuing comparability of accreditation standards and processes applied to medical schools in Antigua and Barbuda, 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: <http://ifap.ed.gov/ForeignSchoolInfo/ForeignSchoolInfo.html>.

The NCFMEA wishes to thank the Honorable Michael Sherwin Browne, Minister of Education, Science and Technology; Dr. Ian Courtney Walwyn, Advisor to the Minister of Education, Science and Technology; and Mrs. Lorna Parkins, Executive Director, Caribbean Accreditation Authority for Education in Medicine and other Health Professions (CAAM-HP), for attending the meeting to provide additional information regarding Antigua and Barbuda and CAAM-HP's accreditation activities. Their testimony was very helpful, and the Committee valued their participation in the meeting.

The NCFMEA accepted the report submitted by Antigua and Barbuda. Antigua and Barbuda is due for a redetermination of comparability at the NCFMEA's fall 2019 meeting. As part of that review, the Committee would like the country to include an update on the implementation of CAAM-HP's survey on educational effectiveness and governance.

The U.S. Department of Education will contact the Government of Antigua and Barbuda and CAAM-HP 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](mailto: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,



Betsy DeVos

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