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20 March 2017

Subject: The role of denominational religion in the school admissions process

Dear Minister,

The American Chamber of Commerce Ireland strongly supports moves to improve education access and remove barriers to school admissions as an integral part of policy seeking to strengthen inclusiveness within the country.

The American Chamber of Commerce Ireland represents companies large and small in the fastest growing sectors of the global economy. These organisations attract and employ people from all walks of life in Ireland, as well as those who have joined us from overseas to make Ireland their home. It is vital that Ireland continues to produce, retain and attract the talent needed to fill the growing number of opportunities available within our member companies and across the broader growing economy. Creating and maintaining a talented and well educated workforce means having strong core values including acceptance, openness and inclusiveness and our member firms continue to positive contribute to this environment.

The American Chamber of Commerce Ireland recognises that education is the key to unlocking our country's economic potential. The Chamber supports the Government's ambitious Action Plan for Education which aims to make the Irish education and training service the best in Europe by 2026. In these uncertain times Ireland is in a very unique position. As a central player in the EU-US relationship with a diverse multinational workforce and soon to be the only English-speaking member of the EU – Ireland has a competitive edge. Now, more than ever we must showcase our warm welcome and openness to the world. Ensuring that our education system has an access for all approach and barriers are removed are integral to highlighting our inclusive society.

The American Chamber of Commerce Ireland welcomes your recent remarks on the matter of school admissions policy that, "in this area of our education service, as in all others, we should set the ambition to be the best, and becoming the best means changing". The Chamber fully supports an education system which aspires to this aim.

Yours sincerely,



Brian Cotter
Public Affairs Director