



March 5, 2015

Chairman John Kline
Education & the Workforce Committee
United States House of Representatives

Dear Chairman Kline,

We write to encourage the members of the Education & the Workforce Committee to support the Student Success Act (H.R. 5). This bill would markedly improve the nation's education system by reducing the federal footprint in local schools, and provide parents and teachers the tools they need to educate their students.

No Child Left Behind put up unnecessary barriers to success and accountability H.R. 5 would remove these barriers and empower parents, educators, and local administrators to shape their policies in the best interest of students.

H.R. 5 reauthorizes the Charter School Program and widens eligibility for schools to acquire federal funding under the program. Additionally, the bill improves on federal funding programs to make sure that the parents and students who wish to attend a charter school can do so.

On the Accountability front, your bill would strike down the ineffective Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) metric and Highly Qualified Teacher (HQT) requirement. These standardized measures are not suitable for all school districts across the nation; by ending them H.R. 5 assures localities of their predominance in administrative decisions.

Furthermore, H.R. 5 terminates more than 65 redundant and ineffective programs enacted by NCLB. In their stead, the bill sets up flexible grants for independent and private sector innovation, thereby tapping into American enterprise to help solve some of our education problems.

The current system does not work. America is still in need of a locally-centered approach to education. After decades of over-spending and federal intervention, it is now time to shift focus to the people closest to the students. Schools must be empowered to decide the best uses for their budgets.

We urge your colleagues to join you in co-sponsoring the Student Success Act. It puts decision-making power back in the hands of the people who know how best to serve their students. It strikes down wasteful spending, and gives parents the flexibility to provide an education for America's future.

Sincerely,

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