



COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION & LABOR
REPUBLICANS

COMMITTEE
STATEMENT

**Opening Statement of Rep. Rick Allen (R-GA), Republican Leader
Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education**

Hearing:

**"Educating our Educators: How Federal Policy Can Better
Support Teachers and School Leaders"**

July 17, 2019

"As the son of two educators, our dinner table conversations were typically about education. So, I know firsthand how important it is for K-12 teachers and school leaders to have the tools they need to succeed. When educators are well-prepared and able to meet the growing demands of our classrooms, children are better able to learn and thrive.

Unfortunately, the current system is failing to provide the K-12 education system with an adequate number of educators equipped to meet the challenges of modern classrooms. In addition, communities around the country are facing teacher shortages, particularly in rural areas and hard-to-staff areas such as special education, English learners, and science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) subjects.

Ultimately, we can only expect our students to be as successful as the teachers and school leaders who educate them. The K-12 educator pipeline needs attention and reform if our schools are going to flourish. Most importantly, I believe the federal government needs to get out of the classroom and let teachers do what they are called to do: teach. Today's discussion will provide incredibly valuable insight as we work to improve the educator pipeline. Thank you to our witnesses here today and to the educators in this country who dedicate their lives to helping America's children learn and succeed."

###