



COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION & LABOR
REPUBLICANS

COMMITTEE
STATEMENT

**Opening Statement of Rep. Lloyd Smucker (R-PA), Republican Leader
Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Investment Hearing:
"Educating our Educators: How Federal Policy Can Better Support Teachers
and School Leaders"
July 17, 2019**

"As my colleague from Georgia, Mr. Allen noted, the educator pipeline is critical to the success of our nation's teachers, school leaders, and most importantly, students. Ensuring America's educators are prepared when they hit the classrooms so their students can hit the books is one of the most important ways to guarantee a successful school system in the United States.

Title II of the Higher Education Act (HEA) funds a program that seeks to do just that. It awards competitive grants for teacher and school leader preparation, but it falls short of providing school systems an adequate pipeline of talent. Title II provides funding to a limited number of institutions in exchange for a significant reporting burden that offers limited insight into program effectiveness.

Republicans have proposed eliminating Title II because of its ineffectiveness. But if Title II continues as part of a reformed HEA, we must ensure that it supports state efforts to reform their teacher and school leader preparation systems. States must lead the way in reforming the preparation system that most of us agree is currently failing too many teachers and students. The success of our preparation programs is directly tied to our students' success. If we truly want America's teachers and students to prosper, we need to work together.

Today's hearing touches on the overall health of the education system in the United States—from K-12 through higher education. So, I look forward to hearing from today's witnesses about how we can better prepare our school teachers and leaders so America's students are successful at every stage of education."

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