

The Honorable John Kline  
Chairman  
Committee on Education and the Workforce  
2181 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable George Miller  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Education and the Workforce  
2181 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

July 15, 2013

Dear Chairman Kline and Ranking Member Miller:

We appreciate your efforts to reauthorize the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). Having a new law that reflects lessons learned from No Child Left Behind is long overdue.

Indeed, we have learned that with high standards and quality assessments, meaningful accountability systems, effective teachers, and adequate resources *all* students can learn to high levels and achievement gaps shrink. But, these efforts must be accompanied by sufficient resources. To that end, the loophole in current ESEA law that allows districts to use budgeting methods to mask funding inequities between Title I and non-Title I schools must be closed.

The ESEA Fiscal Fairness Act (H.R. 379), sponsored by Rep. Chaka Fattah (D-Penn.) ensures that Title I funds fulfill their congressional intent — to provide additional resources to high-poverty schools so that they can serve their students, who often face more challenges than other students, effectively. The companion bill in the Senate, first introduced by Sens. Michael Bennet (D-Colo.) and Thad Cochran (R-Miss.) in the 112th Congress, was incorporated into the ESEA bill that passed out of the Senate HELP committee last month.

We were deeply disappointed that a similar provision for closing the comparability loophole was not incorporated in the final bill that passed out of the Education and the Workforce Committee. There is an easy fix. The ESEA Fiscal Fairness Act should be included within any ESEA reauthorization bill that comes to the House floor.

We look forward to working with your staff to make sure that fair funding for Title I schools is included in the House bill to reauthorize the Elementary and Secondary Education Act.

Sincerely,  
Advance Illinois  
Center for American Progress  
Civic Builders  
ConnCAN  
Democrats for Education Reform

Education Reform Now  
Forum for Youth Investment  
Hope Street Group  
Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights  
League of Education Voters  
League of United Latin American Citizens  
NAACP Legal Defense & Educational Fund, Inc.  
Mass Insight Education  
National Council of La Raza  
National Urban League  
Oklahoma Business & Education Coalition  
Stand for Children  
Schott Foundation  
The Education Trust  
The Mind Trust  
The New Teacher Project  
United Negro College Fund  
United Methodist Church, General Board of Church and Society

CC: Rep. John Boehner, Speaker  
Rep. Nancy Pelosi, Minority Leader