

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 24, 2013

The Honorable John Kline
Chairman
Committee on Education and the Workforce
U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable George Miller
Ranking Member
Committee on Education and the Workforce
U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Kline and Ranking Member Miller,

Representing parents, students, educators, and concerned citizens who care deeply about the importance of quality in our nation's public schools, we are writing to express our desire to see the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) reformed and reauthorized in the immediate future. We thank you for your efforts to improve our nation's educational system. Under your leadership, the House Education and Workforce Committee has provided considerable oversight over No Child Left Behind (NCLB), and we believe that the time has come to reauthorize and reform the law to improve access and equity in public education in the United States.

Since 2007, Congress has been overdue to reauthorize Elementary and Secondary Education Act. In the absence of reauthorization, we have seen administrative waivers, competitive grants, and other programs over which Congress has very little influence overtake the focus of our public schools. This has led to a more bureaucratic and confusing system of policies and funding across the country, without the benefit of Congressional input and specific legislative design. Although additional state flexibility has in some cases been helpful, the current landscape has also made it increasingly difficult for our local school districts to plan for the future. Without knowing when or in what shape a reauthorization may take, and how such Administrative policies like NCLB waivers align with other federal and state efforts that are currently underway, public schools are in a funding and curricula crisis.

We believe it is imperative that Congress reassert its authority over this critical law and move as quickly as possible to reauthorize the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. We stand ready to support your Committee towards a bipartisan reauthorization. Another school year will soon be upon us, and districts need the certainty that a Congressional reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act would provide.

Sincerely,



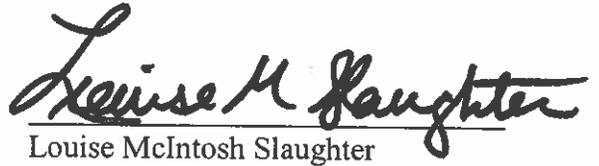
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Louise McIntosh Slaughter
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Ron Barber
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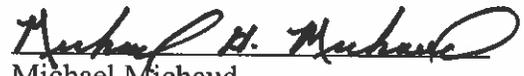
Matt Cartwright
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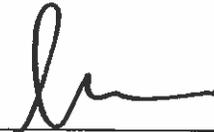
Jackie Speier
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Kurt Schrader
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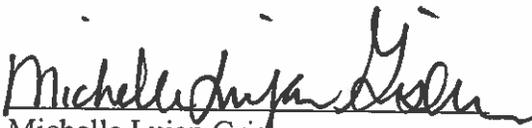


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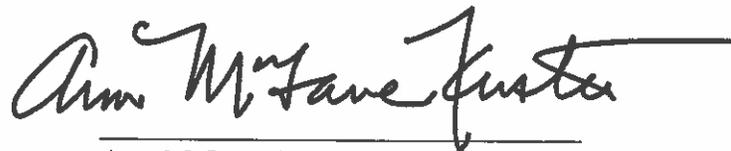
Michelle Lujan Grisham
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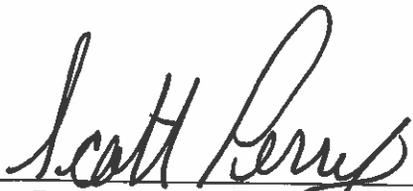
Peter DeFazio
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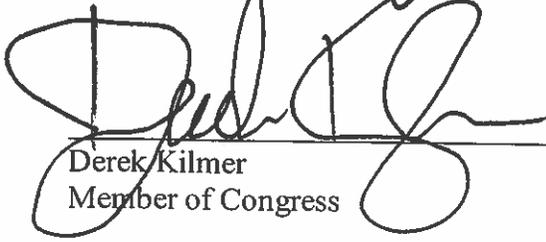
Ann McLane Kuster
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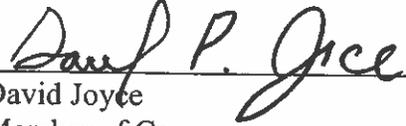
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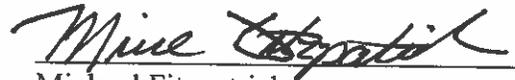
Rob Wittman
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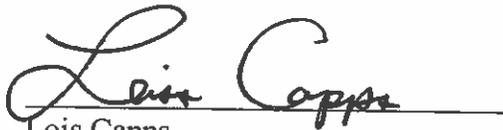
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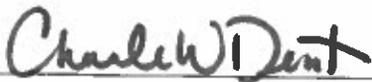
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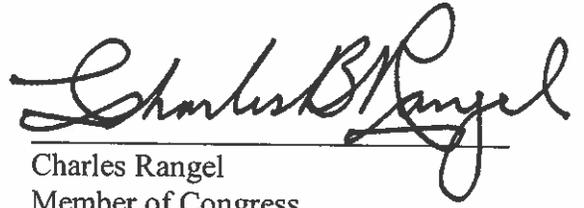
Michael Honda
Member of Congress



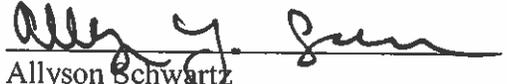
Jon Runyan
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Peter King
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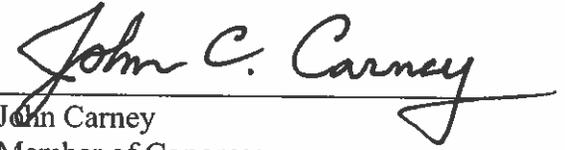
Keith Rothfus
Member of Congress



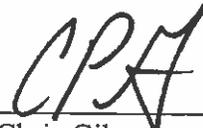
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Allyson Schwartz
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John Carney
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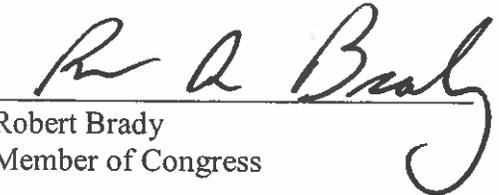


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