



May 20, 2011

The Honorable Duncan Hunter
223 Canon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Hunter,

We write to encourage your colleagues to co-sponsor and otherwise support your Setting New Priorities in Education Spending Act, a bill that would deauthorize many duplicative and wasteful education programs.

Federal funding for education has increased nearly threefold in the last fifty years, yet educational performance continues to decline. There is no clearer illustration of the failure of indiscriminate funding to promote positive policy change than in federal education spending. Serious efforts must be made to reform federal education programs and rescind wasteful, inefficient government spending.

Under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, nearly 80 separate education programs are being operated at a cost to taxpayers of \$24 billion every year. In large part, these programs have proven to be inefficient, duplicative, and unnecessary. Improvements in education policy cannot be realized until the current system is streamlined and reformed. The Setting New Priorities in Education Spending Act does this, repealing the authorization of over 40 of these inefficient federal education programs.

This catalyzes actual and lasting reform. While many of the programs specified in the Setting New Priorities in Education Act have been defunded in recent budget measures, nothing prevents these accounts from being funded in the future as they are still actively authorized.

These programs have failed to fulfill their objectives and improve American education. What's more, their termination has already been targeted by lawmakers on both sides of the aisle – many of the programs that are deauthorized in the bill have already been defunded in the 2011 Budget Deal which passed both chambers and was signed into law. Other programs listed were not funded in the President's Budget proposal for 2012 or were never funded after their initial creation.

Thus, we encourage your colleagues to support your Setting New Priorities in Education Spending Act and look forward to working with you to restore a culture of fiscal responsibility and restraint in federal spending.

Sincerely,

Grover Norquist
President
Americans for Tax Reform

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