



AMERICANS FOR PROSPERITY®

June 21, 2013

Dear Representative Kline:

On behalf of more than two million Americans for Prosperity activists in all 50 states, I am writing in strong support of the Student Success Act (H.R. 5). Your bill will roll back years of failed federal education reforms and allow our nation's public schools the freedom to pursue educational excellence.

For decades, the federal government has tied state and local education agencies down with red tape, and educational achievement has not improved as a result. Test scores and graduation rates have flatlined since the 1970s despite Washington's best efforts. This problem became particularly pronounced after the passage of No Child Left Behind, with draconian requirements like Adequate Yearly Progress threatening to punish schools if they don't meet unrealistic benchmarks. It hasn't worked, and America's schoolchildren have suffered as a result.

Your bill would turn the tides of one-size-fits-all interventionism towards local control of education tailored towards students' needs. Adequate Yearly Progress' singular performance benchmark would be eliminated, allowing state and local education agencies flexibility in deciding how to hold their teachers accountable to excellence. More than 70 No Child Left Behind programs will similarly be cut, allowing states and schools the freedom to decide where their Title I funds would be put to the best use.

The success of school choice has shown that education excellence can only be achieved by empowering parents and teachers on the local level the freedom to give their students the quality education they deserve. The Student Success Act is a positive step towards educational liberty, and for that reason Americans for Prosperity is proud to support it. I urge your colleagues to support its passage, and I look forward to working with you in the future.

Sincerely,

Casey Given
Education Policy Analyst
Americans for Prosperity

Americans for Prosperity® (AFP) is a nationwide organization of citizen leaders committed to advancing every individual's right to economic freedom and opportunity. AFP believes reducing the size and scope of government is the best safeguard to ensuring individual productivity and prosperity for all Americans. AFP educates and engages citizens in support of restraining state and federal government growth and returning government to its constitutional limits. AFP has more than 2 million members, including members in all 50 states, and 36 state chapters and affiliates. More than 90,000 Americans in all 50 states have made a financial investment in AFP or AFP Foundation. For more information, visit www.americansforprosperity.org. Americans for Prosperity does not support or oppose candidates for public office.

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