



MASA

Minnesota Association of School Administrators

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Gary M. Amoroso, Ph.D.,
Executive Director

February 17, 2015

Representative John Kline
Chairman, House Education & the Workforce Committee
US House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Kline:

As Executive Director of the Minnesota Association of School Administrators (MASA), I want to offer our association's strong support for your efforts to reauthorize the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). Your leadership has been an invaluable resource during the journey toward the passage of the Student Success Act (HR5). Our members believe that time is of the essence in moving forward with the House of Representatives and the Senate coming together on a reauthorization bill that the President will sign.

MASA supports the following components in HR5 that makes significant improvements in the federal role in accountability, standards and assessment:

- Maintain student disaggregation by subgroup
- Eliminate the 100 percent proficiency mandate
- Eliminate SES/Choice
- Remove caps on alternate assessments, allowing the IEP team to ensure that children are assessed in a meaningful, fair and accurate manner
- Maintain supplement/supplant language
- Reduce federal overreach into school improvement/turnaround strategies
- Put states in charge of designing a teacher evaluation system
- Eliminate requirements related to Highly Qualified Teacher provisions
- Provide option for 5-, 6-, and 7-year graduation rates.
- Reauthorization of the Rural Education Achievement Program (REAP)

In addition to supporting the above referenced improvements in HR5, MASA stands ready to work with you and your committee to further improve upon the bill as it works its way through the legislative process. Suggested areas for further consideration include: Title I portability, funding levels and educational technology.

MASA questions providing states with an option to reallocate how Title I dollars are administered to districts in a manner that does not consider concentrations of student poverty across and within district. Further, MASA is concerned that the proposed funding level in the bill is less than pre-sequester levels. It is vitally important that our school districts are provided with the necessary resources in



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order for us to truly provide our students with a world-class education. Lastly, MASA is concerned that the bill does not contain a program that is committed to supporting education educational technology. Inclusion of a thoughtfully craft educational technology initiative will send a strong message that the federal government expects all children will participate in digital learning and be prepared for the 21st century digital world in which they will live and work.

MASA stands ready to work with you and your committee to continue to move this process forward. Our members can be a powerful resource in providing relevant data and anecdotal stories that can frame the positive consequences of the passage of this important legislation as well as the potential issues and unintended consequences of the elements we have identified for further consideration.

Once again, thank you Chairman Kline for your relentless dedication and determination during this process. Your work in support of the children in Minnesota and the nation is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gary M. Amoroso", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Gary M. Amoroso, Ph.D.
Executive Director