



December 1, 2015

Honorable John Kline, Chairman  
Honorable Bobby Scott, Ranking Member  
Committee on Education and the Workforce  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Kline and Ranking Member Scott:

ACT applauds the work of conferees to reach a compromise that renews federal aid to elementary and secondary education through the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). ACT supports final enactment of the conference agreement.

In particular, we support the inclusion in the federal framework of: 1) challenging academic standards; 2) annual assessments; 3) appropriate use of assessment data by parents and teachers to monitor student progress; 4) limited opt-outs from state assessments; 5) providing resources early when students need additional help; and 6) expansion of dual and concurrent enrollment programs, along with incentives to prepare teachers to offer these courses.

With further reference to dual and concurrent enrollment, ACT also supports the consolidation of programs to create the Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grants under Title IV, which allow accelerated learning of this kind; the Direct Student Services grant under Title I, which provides needed resources for educators to expand this type of innovative activity; and the use of Title III funds for dual and concurrent enrollment for English Language Learners.

ACT believes that the compromise bill provides the needed resources and flexibility for states and local education agencies to maximize proven strategies to bring about academic success for all students. We strongly urge passage of the ESSA.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Scott Montgomery", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Scott Montgomery  
Vice President  
Policy, Advocacy, and Government Relations

Cc: Rep. Virginia Foxx  
Rep. David P. Roe  
Rep. Glenn Thompson  
Rep. Brett Guthrie  
Rep. Todd Rokita  
Rep. Luke Messer  
Rep. Glenn Grothman  
Rep. Steve Russell

Rep. Carlos Curbelo  
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