

June 18, 2013

Chairman John Kline
House Committee on Education and the Workforce
2181 Rayburn House Office Building
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Kline:

On behalf of the nation's chief state school officers, I am writing to commend you for advancing the congressional process to reauthorize the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) by scheduling an executive session in the Education and the Workforce Committee on H.R. 5, the Student Success Act. ESEA has been due to be reauthorized since 2007, and the current statute has not kept pace with education reform in the states and requires a prompt update in order to eliminate barriers to reform and support state and local education systems. As the reauthorization process proceeds in this Congress, we urge you to work with colleagues on both sides of the aisle to renew ESEA in a manner that supports state and district efforts to graduate all students prepared for college and careers.

Chief state school officers appreciate that the core accountability provisions in the Student Success Act would support the education reforms that states are currently implementing, and would allow all states to move past existing barriers to effective education reform. Chiefs understand they are responsible for the efficient and appropriate use of tax dollars in their schools, and are not opposed to being held accountable by Congress for using federal education funds effectively to improve student achievement.

CCSSO and our members across the nation look forward to working with you to promote an ESEA reauthorization that limits existing burdens on state and local educators, promotes innovation and reform, and realizes the purpose of ESEA to eliminate achievement gaps and ensure that all students graduate high school ready for success.

Sincerely,



Chris Minnich
Executive Director

