

February 3, 2015

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 introducing legislation to reauthorize the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). ESEA has been due to be reauthorized since 2007, and the current statute has not kept pace with education reform in states and school districts. As the reauthorization process proceeds in this Congress, we urge you to work with your colleagues to renew ESEA in a manner that supports state and district efforts to graduate all students prepared for college and careers.

We are pleased that your bill is aligned with Key Priorities for Reauthorization of ESEA that the Council of Chief State School Officers published and sent to you in early January. State education leaders appreciate that the core assessment and accountability provisions would support the education reforms that states are currently implementing, while allowing educators to move past existing barriers to effective education reforms. Chiefs understand they are responsible for the efficient and appropriate use of tax dollars, 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 supports stable federal policies that give states additional flexibility and encourage innovation while holding us accountable for results.

Sincerely,



Chris Minnich
Executive Director

