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February 9, 2015

The Honorable John Kline
Chairman
Education and the Workforce Committee
United States House of Representatives
2257 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: *Student Success Act*, H.R. 5

Dear Chairman Kline,

As Congress takes up H.R. 5, the *Student Success Act*, I write to you today in support of several provisions in the bill that are of great importance to homeschoolers nationwide and to HSLDA.

The *Student Success Act* retains Section 9506 of the *No Child Left Behind Act* (20 U.S.C. § 7886) as Section 6506. This language ensures that nothing in the Act will apply to homeschools or private schools that do not receive federal funds, thus protecting these private educational programs from any federal regulation or control. This is of the utmost importance to homeschoolers across the nation.

The *Student Success Act* also retains Section 9531 of the *No Child Left Behind Act* (20 U.S.C. § 7911) as Section 6526. This language protects the privacy and safety of children by ensuring that nothing in the Act will authorize the development of a nationwide database of personally identifiable information on individuals involved in studies or other collections of data established by the Act.

The *Student Success Act* also retains Section 9530 of the *No Child Left Behind Act* (20 U.S.C. § 7910) as Section 6524. This language prohibits the federal government from creating any program of national testing or certification for teachers.

Finally, the *Student Success Act* strengthens the existing prohibitions on federal funding and control over a state or school district's curriculum, educational standards, and educational testing and assessments (Sections 6521, 6522, and 6523). HSLDA is very concerned with the federal government's use of federal funds to pressure the states into adopting the Common Core and other educational initiatives, and we believe that Sections 6521, 6522, and 6523 will once and for all remove

H O M E S C H O O L L E G A L D E F E N S E A S S O C I A T I O N

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The Honorable John Kline

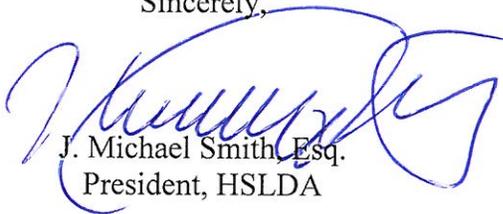
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the federal government from coercing and incentivizing states into adopting the Common Core, Common Core-aligned assessments, and other educational initiatives.

HSLDA believes that these provisions in the *Student Success Act* are critical to ensuring that we return educational decisions to the states where they rightfully belong under the U.S. Constitution, and to parents, teachers, and local school boards. We applaud you for your leadership on this issue, and for your work to expand educational freedom in our nation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J. Michael Smith", is written over a circular blue stamp or seal.

J. Michael Smith, Esq.
President, HSLDA