

# knowledge alliance

June 17, 2013

The Honorable John Kline  
Chairman  
House Committee on Education and the Workforce  
Washington, DC

Dear Chairman Kline,

Knowledge Alliance is a non-profit, non-partisan organization focused on dramatically improving K-12 public education by advocating for the widespread, effective use of research-based knowledge in policy and practice. We are pleased that there is movement toward a reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, and we hope that the House can produce a bill that is supported by both sides.

H.R. 5, "The Student Success Act" takes a number of steps towards driving the use of evidence-based practices in ESEA programs, and we look forward to working with you to continue to strengthen this piece of legislation. We are particularly interested in working with you as the legislative process moves forward by adding a definition of scientifically valid research to the bill. This definition has been widely agreed upon throughout the education research community, and its inclusion will ensure there is no ambiguity as it is interpreted either by Federal officials or in the field.

In addition, Knowledge Alliance appreciates the fact that your bill reserves .5% of each program for evaluations by the Secretary acting through the Institute of Education Sciences. Only through these kinds of rigorous evaluations will we learn what works and what doesn't, and how Federal programs can be improved. We also are pleased with the inclusion of provisions in several sections of your bill that will allow providers with expertise in using evidence based or other effective strategies to improve student achievement to offer their services to educators on a wide range of topics. As you know, Knowledge Alliance members stand ready to provide their services whenever they can, and these provisions will increase their ability to do just that.

We thank you for your work toward reauthorizing this important legislation. Knowledge Alliance hopes to continue to work with the entire Committee on a bipartisan basis as the reauthorization process moves forward to ensure that all policies that promote the use of evidence-based research and practice are included.

Sincerely,



Michele McLaughlin  
President  
Knowledge Alliance