



April 3, 2014

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

Dear Chairman Kline,

Thank you for the invitation from the Committee on Education and the Workforce to provide technical assistance in the form of comments on provisions of H.R. 4366, *the Strengthening Education through Research Act*, related to the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) and the National Assessment Governing Board.

We wish to begin by noting the bi-partisan support of the bill, evidenced by its being introduced by yourself, Full Committee Ranking Member George Miller, Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education Chairman Todd Rokita, and Subcommittee Ranking Member Carolyn McCarthy. The bill's goal of shielding NAEP from political influence and bias is advanced by this bi-partisan consensus of the Committee leadership.

The Governing Board views protecting the credibility and integrity of NAEP as a solemn duty. The NAEP-related provisions of H.R. 4366 maintain and strengthen the Board's authority to carry out this duty.

The bill includes amendments to current law that more accurately and clearly describe the respective roles and responsibilities of the Governing Board and the Commissioner of Education Statistics. These amendments should have the effect of strengthening the checks and balances that were a part of the original conception of the current governance structure for NAEP.

As does current law under the *Education Sciences Reform Act*, the provisions in H.R. 4366 under Section 113(a) continue to recognize and support the NAEP governance structure as a special case within the Institute of Education Sciences. H.R. 4366 is a complex bill, establishing a number of entities with authorities potentially overlapping those of the Governing Board and NAEP. Therefore, we respectfully suggest that attention continue to be directed at ensuring that provisions in other sections of the bill cannot be construed as conflicting with those related to NAEP and the Governing Board, as the bill moves from introduction to enactment.

Again, thank you for the invitation to comment on H.R. 4366. If you have any questions, please contact our Executive Director, Cornelia Orr (202-357-6943, Cornelia.Orr@ed.gov).

Sincerely,

David P. Driscoll

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David P. Driscoll".

Chair

Similar Letters sent to Representatives Miller, Rokita, and McCarthy