



AMERICANS *for* TAX REFORM

June 18, 2013

Chairman John Kline
Education & the Workforce Committee
United States House of Representatives

Dear Chairman Kline,

We write in support of your bill, The Student Success Act (H.R. 5). This bill takes positive steps toward improving public education by reining in federal overreach and empowering state and local governments in the decision-making process.

The Act eliminates the barriers to achievement and accountability erected by No Child Left Behind. As it stands, NCLB has driven a wedge between taxpayers, school boards, and students' education. Its one-size-fits-all approach has crippled local school districts' ability to tailor education to their communities' needs.

As a remedy, H.R. 5 eliminates over 70 existing NCLB elementary and secondary education programs that have been deemed ineffective by federal watchdogs. Instead, the bill reallocates the funding to flexible grants for independent innovation and private sector initiatives. This provides local autonomy and allows parents and communities – not federal bureaucrats - to be the arbiters of positive education reform.

In the same vein, the bill reauthorizes the Charter School Program and expands eligibility for charter school funding. The bill also improves on federal funding for programs designed to aid targeted populations, making sure every student has a chance to succeed.

Your bill also eliminates the unrealistic Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) metric and the High Qualified Teacher (HQT) requirement. In their place, the state and local governments are allowed to create their own accountability systems within a few broad parameters that preserve local interests.

Since decades of overspending and increased federal involvement in education has produced negligible improvements, it is important reform moves to make education decisions more localized. Your bill allows local school districts to write their own budgets based on their own priorities.

Consequently, we encourage your colleagues to co-sponsor and otherwise support the Student Success Act. It eliminates wasteful and ineffective programs and grants decision-making sovereignty to those who know their community's education needs most intimately. This bill will help ensure that taxpayer dollars are truly being invested in America's most precious assets.

Sincerely,

Grover Norquist
President
Americans for Tax Reform



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