



July 16, 2013

The Honorable John Kline
Chairman
Education and the Workforce Committee
United States House of Representatives
2439 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Todd Rokita
Chairman
Early Childhood, Elementary and Secondary Education
United States House of Representatives
236 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

RE: Student Success Act, H.R. 5

Dear Representatives Kline and Rokita,

On behalf of the 500,000 members of Concerned Women for America Legislative Action Committee (CWALAC), I write today in support of H.R. 5, the Student Success Act. CWALAC believes that the federal government is far too heavily involved in educational decisions that under our Constitution must be left to the states. We believe that every child is unique and that children learn best when parents and teachers, not educational bureaucrats in Washington, have the freedom to make the critical decisions regarding a child's education.

The Student Success Act takes a major step forward toward returning educational decisions to the states, and to parents, teachers, and local school boards. While we urge Congress to take an even stronger step toward getting federal bureaucrats completely out of education decision making, we recognize that the Student Success Act has the best chance of passage at this present time, and will represent a significant improvement over the status quo.

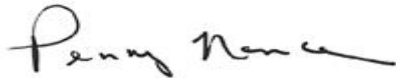
We appreciate the fact that the Student Success Act retains the language in the No Child Left Behind Act to ensure that nothing in the Act will apply to homeschools or private schools that do not receive federal funds, thus protecting these private educational programs from any federal regulation or control.

In addition, we are pleased that 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. CWALAC is deeply concerned with the federal government's use

of federal funds to pressure the states into adopting the Common Core and other educational initiatives, and believes Section 5521 ameliorates our concerns. The states and local school districts, not federal bureaucrats, should make these decisions. Likewise, we are pleased that the Student Success Act strengthens the existing prohibitions on federal funding and control for any program of national testing or certification for teachers.

We appreciate your work to improve the freedom of parents, teachers, and states to provide quality education for the next generation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Penny Nance". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Penny Nance
Chief Executive Officer and President
Concerned Women for America Legislative Action Committee