



WORKFORCE
DATA QUALITY
CAMPAIGN

1730 Rhode Island Avenue NW, Ste. 712
Washington DC 20036

P. 202.223.8355
E. info@WorkforceDQC.org

April 7, 2014

Committee on Education and the Workforce
U.S. House of Representatives
2181 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-6100

Dear members of the Committee on Education and the Workforce:

On behalf of Workforce Data Quality Campaign — a non-profit initiative that promotes inclusive, aligned and market-relevant workforce data — I am writing in support of the *Strengthening Education through Research Act* (H.R. 4366), which would amend the authorization for state longitudinal data system grants to foster alignment of data across early childhood, K-12, postsecondary and workforce programs.

Workforce Data Quality Campaign encourages the use of data to ensure that all of our nation's education and training programs are preparing students to succeed in a changing economy. Linking data across programs — while maintaining individual privacy — enables analysis and research that can demonstrate students' progress as they advance through the education pipeline and into careers.

We regularly hear from state data leaders that federal grants are crucial in catalyzing improvements to state longitudinal data systems, but many of these improvements are taking place within program silos. Adding language about alignment across the PK–20/workforce spectrum is an important signal to states that will encourage needed collaboration. In addition, we support the bill's emphasis on the use of data, not just data system creation.

The *Strengthening Education through Research Act* is a positive step in moving toward federal support for more inclusive state longitudinal data systems that are fully utilized to improve education and workforce development policies. We appreciate your action on this issue.

Sincerely,

Rachel Zinn
Director, Workforce Data Quality Campaign