



NATIONAL CONFERENCE of STATE LEGISLATURES

The Forum for America's Ideas

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The Honorable Lamar Alexander
United States Senate
Chairman
Committee on Health, Education,
Labor, and Pensions
455 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray
United States Senate
Ranking Member
Committee on Health, Education,
Labor, and Pensions
154 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Alexander and Ranking Member Murray:

As the Every Child Achieves Act moves to the Senate floor, the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) continues to applaud this bipartisan legislation. NCSL views the Every Child Achieves Act as a strong, state-centered reauthorization bill, and an important step forward in fixing the current law.

We have greatly appreciated the opportunity to work with you and your staff on language that allows a greater role for state legislators in education governance. We think the language included in the version of the bill the Senate will debate is essential to ensure the kind of collaboration in education policy that will help improve instruction for all of our children.

We also appreciate that the legislation includes many provisions recommended in the reauthorization plan that NCSL released in partnership with the National Governors Association. Under your legislation, states would receive greater flexibility in areas such as accountability systems and school improvement strategies. It also ensures that states will determine academic standards and can use innovative assessments to measure student achievement. This bill is a hopeful sign that we can move away from the policy by waiver system that governs education today.

Thank you for your dedication to improving education and learning for students in our states. If you need any additional information, please contact Lee Posey at lee.posey@ncsl.org or 202-624-8196.

Sincerely,

Representative Sharon Tomiko Santos
Washington House of Representatives
Co-Chair, NCSL Education Committee

Senator Howard Stephenson
Utah Senate
Co-Chair, NCSL Education Committee