



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:

The National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) applauds your bipartisan legislation to reauthorize the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). The Every Child Achieves Act is a strong, state-centered bill and an important step forward in fixing the current law. We 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.

NCSL will continue to work with you on issues that emerge as the bill moves forward. We hope to see a greater role for state legislators in education governance reflected in a final bill. Overall, the introduction of this bill is a hopeful sign that we can move away from the policy by waiver system that governs education today.

Again, we thank you for your dedication to improving education and learning for students in our states. We look forward to continuing to work with you and your staffs as this bill moves through the legislative process. If you have any questions 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

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