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**Date:** Fri, 7/15/2011 4:25:34 PM

**Subject:** Re: Chiefs for Change approval of Children's Defense Fund letter

Looks good to me!

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**From:** Patricia Levesque ([patricia@excelined.org](mailto:patricia@excelined.org)) [<mailto:patricia@excelined.org>]

**Sent:** Friday, July 15, 2011 02:05 PM

**To:** Barresi, Janet <[janet.barresi@sde.ok.gov](mailto:janet.barresi@sde.ok.gov)>; Barresi, Janet Asst Becky Woodie <[becky.woodie@sde.ok.gov](mailto:becky.woodie@sde.ok.gov)>; Barresi, Janet Comm Dir Damon Gardenhire <[damon.gardenhire@sde.ok.gov](mailto:damon.gardenhire@sde.ok.gov)>; Barresi, Janet COS Jennifer Carter <[jennifer.carter@sde.ok.gov](mailto:jennifer.carter@sde.ok.gov)>; Bennett, Tony <[tb@doe.in.gov](mailto:tb@doe.in.gov)>; Bennett, Tony Asst Debbie Downing <[d Downing@doe.in.gov](mailto:d Downing@doe.in.gov)>; Bennett, Tony Asst Jennifer Outlaw <[joutlaw@doe.in.gov](mailto:joutlaw@doe.in.gov)>; Bennett, Tony COS Heather Neal <[hneal@doe.in.gov](mailto:hneal@doe.in.gov)>; Bowen, Stephen <[stephen.bowen@maine.gov](mailto:stephen.bowen@maine.gov)>; Bowen, Stephen <[stephenbowen@myfairpoint.net](mailto:stephenbowen@myfairpoint.net)>; Cerf, Chris <[cdcerf@gmail.com](mailto:cdcerf@gmail.com)>; Cerf, Chris Asst Helene Leona <[helene.leona@doe.state.nj.us](mailto:helene.leona@doe.state.nj.us)>; Cerf, Chris Special Asst Andrew Smarick <[andrew.smarick@doe.state.nj.us](mailto:andrew.smarick@doe.state.nj.us)>; Gist, Deborah <[deborah.gist@ride.ri.gov](mailto:deborah.gist@ride.ri.gov)>; Huffman, Kevin <[Kevin.S.Huffman@tn.gov](mailto:Kevin.S.Huffman@tn.gov)>; Huffman, Kevin COS Emily Barton <[emily.barton@tn.gov](mailto:emily.barton@tn.gov)>; Pastorek, Paul <[pastorekpg@gmail.com](mailto:pastorekpg@gmail.com)>; Pastorek, Paul Asst Christina Rose <[christina.rose@eads-na.com](mailto:christina.rose@eads-na.com)>; Robinson, Gerard <[gtr924@aol.com](mailto:gtr924@aol.com)>; Skandera, Hanna, PED; Carothers, Cathie, PED; Lenti, Leighann, PED; Smith, Eric <[drericjsmith@gmail.com](mailto:drericjsmith@gmail.com)>

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**Subject:** FW: Chiefs for Change approval of Children's Defense Fund letter

Dear Chiefs,

We have received a request for Chiefs for Change to support a letter from the Children's Defense Fund to Congress re: ESEA. The letter is very short and crisp and falls completely in line with the Chiefs' guiding principles for ESEA reauthorization.

The Children's Defense Fund is urging congress to make sure **all students and all schools are part of the accountability system**.

They would like to send this letter prior to your next bi-weekly call, so we are asking for your input/approval via email.

We would recommend that you do sign on to this letter, since the mix of the other supporters (ACLU, Center for American Progress, NAACP, etc.) provides a very good, different mix of the entities you have aligned with in the past and we recommend that Chiefs for Change sign on as a group (vs. individual members).

Thank you for your input.

Patricia

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**From:** William Kinder [mailto:wkinder@childrensdefense.org]

**Sent:** Friday, July 15, 2011 11:32 AM

**To:** Jaryn Emhof (jaryn@excelined.org)

**Subject:** RE: Chiefs for Change contact

Jaryn:

Thanks for your quick response. I've attached the letter. We are on a bit of a tight turn-around, hoping to get sign-ons by the end of the day next Thursday (7/21). The development of this letter grew out of a meeting hosted by Marian Wright Edelman with a number of education advocates to discuss concerns about the accountability issue in ESEA reauthorization. Given that a number of leaders in the education reform, civil rights, and business communities have already commented on accountability, our goal is to bring together a diverse group of organizations to sign on.

You'll see that the letter is short and to the point, delivering the message that a revised accountability framework in ESEA reauthorization must include all schools and all students, and that proposals limiting accountability to the lowest-performing schools are unacceptable. As I mentioned already, we think the letter is very much consistent with the principles for ESEA reauthorization that Chiefs for Change released in May.

Sign-ons so far include the Children's Defense Fund, ACLU, Center for American Progress, the Education Trust, the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, and the NAACP Legal Defense Fund. Again, we are hoping to get sign-ons by **next Thursday, July 21<sup>st</sup>**—and would be happy to work with you to get any other information needed to the chiefs. We'd really love to have the group sign-on.

Don't hesitate to get in touch with me with any questions or thoughts. You can reach me by phone at 202-662-3544.

Best,

Will

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**From:** Jaryn Emhof (jaryn@excelined.org) [mailto:jaryn@excelined.org]

**Sent:** Friday, July 15, 2011 10:59 AM

**To:** William Kinder

**Subject:** RE: Chiefs for Change contact

Hello Will,

Thank you for your email. I am happy to present your letter and request to our Chiefs for Change. Would you send me a copy of the letter, who else will be signing on, your timeline and any other information you would like me to share with the chiefs?

Best,  
Jaryn

*Jaryn Emhof*

Communications Director  
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Foundation for Excellence in Education  
850-391-3072 Office  
850-528-8629 Cell

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**From:** William Kinder [mailto:wkinder@childrensdefense.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, July 15, 2011 10:34 AM  
**To:** Jaryn Emhof (jaryn@excelined.org)  
**Subject:** Chiefs for Change contact

Dear Jaryn:

I'm writing to ask for your guidance in speaking with someone from Chiefs for Change about a sign-on letter that the Children's Defense Fund is circulating regarding accountability in ESEA reauthorization. This letter was developed by CDF and a number of educators and advocates with the intent to bring together several groups that have already commented on the accountability issue in the on-going ESEA negotiations.

We think that the message of the letter is very much consistent with the principles for ESEA reauthorization that the Chiefs for Change released in May, and we would love to have the group sign-on.

If you are the best person to work through on this, please let me know. If not, is there someone else I can speak with about our letter?

Best,

Will

**Will Kinder**  
**Policy Assistant**

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Step Forward for Children