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Sent time: Thursday, October 20, 2011 3:56:22 AM
To: John Bailey <john.bailey@dutkograyling.com>
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Cc:
Subject: Re: Time Urgent - ESEA letter

John,

Thanks for your work. I also appreciate everyone weighing in so that John was able to respond accordingly.

FYI - Chris from CCSSO contacted me yesterday giving me some indication that they were supporting the bill. He was concerned about my role on their board in support, and my role here opposing it. Just so everyone knows, nobody from CCSSO asked me to support the bill as a board member, and I do not know who/where that decision came from. Regardless, I told him I am fine with my position opposing it.

In the end - I am shocked they took that position considering how careful they have been to try to align with us.

TB

Sent from my iPad

On Oct 19, 2011, at 8:10 AM, "John Bailey" <john.bailey@dutkograyling.com> wrote:

Chiefs - CFC has been asked to sign onto a letter with the U.S. Chamber, DFER, and civil rights groups stating that we cannot support the Senate ESEA bill in its current form (text of the letter is below).

Nothing in the letter contradicts the CFC ESEA principles or the statement released on Friday related to the draft bill. This new letter is in reaction to the changes made to the bill on Monday which eliminate the accountability timelines and weaken the teacher effectiveness measures.

Carmel Martin from the Department also reached out to me about this. She can't ask for a letter but thought it would be helpful.

Tony and Hanna have both recommended that we sign this. The unfolding of events over the last 24 hours has led to a bit of a time crunch so we need to know if you have any strong concerns by 9am since the markup begins at 10am. Our current thinking is to have the letter signed by Tony and Hanna on behalf of the chiefs.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Thanks!

---John

703-624-0489

XX Civil Rights Groups and Education Advocates on ESEA Proposal: "We Cannot Support the Bill at this Time"

Groups Join with Chamber of Commerce to Stress State Accountability

Washington, DC - In advance of today's Senate mark-up of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 2011, XX civil rights groups, education advocates, and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce are declining to support the bill proposed by HELP Committee Chairman Harkin and Ranking Member Enzi due to the absence of accountability measures that narrow the achievement gaps for low-income students, students of color, English language learners, and students with disabilities.

"As representatives of the millions of girls and boys with disabilities, low-income students, students of color, and English-language learners who are studying in our nation's schools, we cannot support the Elementary and Secondary Education Reauthorization Act of 2011 at this time. The bill's weak accountability system excludes the vast majority of children we represent, making it impossible for our organizations to support it.

We applaud the inclusion of much needed reforms on college and career ready standards and assessments; accountability for dropout factories, more equitable funding within districts, and improvements in limiting alternate assessments for students with disabilities and recognize the benefits that these provisions could yield for students.

In its current form, however, states would not have to set any measurable achievement and progress targets or even graduation rate goals. They would be required to take action to improve only a small number of low-performing schools. In schools which aren't among the states' very worst performing, huge numbers of low-achieving students will slip through the cracks.

Federal funding must be attached to firm, ambitious and unequivocal demands for higher achievement, high school graduation rates and gap closing. We know that states, school districts, and schools needed a more modern and focused law. But this bill goes too far.

Although we are unable to support the legislation in its current form, we hope to work with Chairman Harkin and Ranking Member Enzi to address our concerns as the process moves forward. "

Signed,