



National Council of
Teachers of English

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Washington, DC (July 24, 2018) – In support of key provisions included in the Aim Higher Act, as introduced by Ranking Member Bobby Scott (D-VA) to reauthorize the Higher Education Act of 2008, Emily Kirkpatrick, executive director of the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) released the following statement:

“We are extremely pleased to see provisions in the Aim Higher Act which substantiate how essential Title II of the Higher Education Act is to teachers and students. NCTE knows Title II plays a critical role in sustaining teacher education programs, strengthening teacher recruitment, and providing support to prospective teachers.

Teacher preparation is particularly important for the field of literacy, the artery for all learning, which is required instruction in every grade K-12. Each year we discover new ways of understanding how students learn to read and write while new modes of communication arise requiring fresh approaches to composition and interpretation. This ever-changing landscape creates a dynamic environment for literacy and English language arts.

The Aim Higher Act acknowledges this by increasing access to teacher residency programs for highly skilled teacher mentors, ensuring accountability for alternative teacher preparation programs, and more.

Every student deserves a qualified and well-prepared teacher. For this to happen, content knowledge, preparation, and continued study are essential. Teachers deserve policy provisions that prepare them to inspire and educate their students. The Aim Higher Act will help us accomplish these important goals.”

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The National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) is the nation’s most comprehensive literacy organization, supporting more than 25,000 teachers across the preK–college spectrum. Through the expertise of its members, NCTE has served at the forefront of every major improvement in the teaching and learning of English and the language arts since 1911.

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