

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Today, a coalition of 31 groups from the civil rights, disability, business, and education communities released the following statement regarding Ranking Member George Miller’s amendment to Chairman John Kline’s Student Success Act, which would amend and reauthorize Title I and other parts of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA):

“Together, we represent parents, educators, employers, and millions of students from low-income homes, students of color, students with disabilities, English language learners, and children of migrant workers.

While not a complete approach to reauthorization, Ranking Member Miller’s amendment is a significant step in the right direction to updating ESEA. The Miller amendment ensures high expectations for the academic success of *all* students; requires improvement in both overall performance and closing achievement gaps between groups of students; sets meaningful graduation rate targets; and insists that struggling schools get the supports and interventions they need to gain ground. In short, the amendment envisions an innovative ESEA accountability system that allows states and districts to implement interventions that benefit students, but does not absolve states and districts of their responsibilities to fully serve all children.

We thank Ranking Member Miller for this amendment’s focus on ensuring all students are afforded a quality education. We look forward to working with the Committee as this ESEA reauthorization process continues.”

50 CAN: The 50-State Campaign for Achievement Now
The Advocacy Institute
The American Association of University Women
Autism National Committee
Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law
Business Coalition for Student Achievement
The Center for American Progress Action Fund
The Center for Law and Education
Children’s Defense Fund
Council of Parent Attorneys and Advocates, Inc.
Democrats for Education Reform
Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund
The Education Trust
The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights
League of United Latin American Citizens
National Center for Learning Disabilities

National Council on Independent Learning
National Council of La Raza
National Disability Rights Network
National Down Syndrome Congress
National Down Syndrome Society
National Urban League
National Women’s Law Center
The New Teacher Project
Poverty & Race Research Action Council
Southeast Asia Resource Action Center
Stand for Children
Students for Education Reform
TESOL International Association
Thurgood Marshall College Fund
U.S. Chamber of Commerce