



February 28, 2012

The Honorable John Kline, Chairman  
House Committee on Education and the Workforce  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable George Miller, Ranking Member  
House Committee on Education and the Workforce  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Kline and Ranking Member Miller:

As the nation's largest, volunteer child advocacy association, the National PTA has significantly impacted improvements to the education and well-being of America's children for 115 years. Currently with more than 5 million members and 24,000 local units in every U.S. state, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands and Europe, National PTA continues to be a powerful voice for all children by advocating for federal policies to improve educational equity and opportunity for all children and their families.

National PTA applauds you for your leadership in ongoing efforts to reauthorize and improve the Elementary and Secondary Education Act – No Child Left Behind (ESEA-NCLB). As the committee marks up H.R. 3989 and H.R. 3990, PTA would like to call attention to provisions contained in the Democratic amendments submitted for consideration; specifically,

- Retention of state and local maintenance of effort;
- Inclusion of state-determined and developed performance targets;
- Codification of the cap on alternate assessment on alternate achievement standards; and
- Inclusion of improvements to ensure universal access to high quality instruction.

Neither the legislative package (H.R. 3989 and H.R. 3990), nor the proposed Democratic amendments comprise a flawless comprehensive reauthorization; however, PTA strongly urges committee consideration of the above-outlined provisions as essential components of any reauthorization effort. PTA agrees with both the Chairman and Ranking Member on the profound and immediate need to provide increased state and local ownership of public education; however, flexibility must not come at the cost of safeguards to equity and opportunity for all students and families or dedicated federal supports for innovations tied to student achievement.

PTA remains committed to a true bipartisan reauthorization that moves forward with strong bipartisan consensus among all stakeholders. PTA recognizes that sound policy solutions for improvements to our nation's education delivery system are not held exclusively by either side of the aisle, but encourages careful consideration of provisions outlined in the Democratic amendments put forth today.

ESEA is in desperate need of serious revisions. National PTA looks forward to close collaboration with majority and minority leadership to complete ESEA reauthorization. Parents, students, teachers, and administrators need and deserve a fully-functioning federal education law that encourages and rewards innovation while safeguarding access to quality education for *all* children. Please contact Jacque Chevalier at [jchevalier@pta.org](mailto:jchevalier@pta.org) or (703)518-1200 ext. 3351 if further clarification is needed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Betsy Landers". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "B".

Betsy Landers  
President  
National PTA