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November 12, 2013

The Honorable Tom Harkin and The Honorable George Miller  
 U.S. Senate and U.S. House of Representatives  
 Washington D. C.

Dear Chairman Harkin and Ranking Member Miller:

The Council of the Great City Schools, the coalition of the nation’s largest central city school districts, writes to commend you on the introduction of the Early Childhood Education Improvement Act of 2013. The introduction of the ECE bill will jump start an important dialogue about delivering quality early education to pre-school children, particularly those from low-income families.

The Council has long advocated for extending education services to younger children with many of the Great City Schools providing pre-school services through Title I, Head Start, or other programs. This patchwork of early learning efforts, however, leaves far too many disadvantaged children unserved until they reach traditional school age. A more comprehensive approach to early childhood education and accompanying resources are sorely needed to ensure that all children have a true equal educational opportunity.

The Council understands the challenges in designing a more comprehensive early learning system to operate within the educational framework of each state, and looks forward to working with you and your committee colleagues to address this important national priority.

Sincerely,

Michael Casserly  
 Executive Director