



American Association of School Administrators

June 24, 2008

Committee on Education and Labor  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Miller and members of the Committee:

The American Association of School Administrators, representing more than 13,000 public school superintendents and local educational leaders, would like to express our support for *HR 3289, the Providing Resources Early for Kids Act of 2008*. We support the role of the federal government to increase access to high quality early childhood opportunities. By supporting the efforts already being made at the state level, the Pre-K Act is not creating a new overlapping system but rather supporting what has already been developed.

AASA's 2008 Legislative Agenda states that "*AASA believes the federal government has a responsibility to help prepare children for success in school in their first five years of life by addressing an array of social factors that have been shown to affect student achievement. These factors include, but are not limited to, poverty, health care, early education and childcare.*" These are areas addressed by the Pre-K Act. We applaud the emphasis on high poverty students within the bill and also the comprehensive nature of the services allowed under the state supported early childhood programs.

We do strongly urge the committee's support for two amendments that will be offered by Representative Hare during the markup. The first amendment would strengthen the language regarding the coordination of state supported early childhood providers and the local school districts they support to ensure a smooth transition to kindergarten for students.

The second amendment would help address the deficit of pre-K opportunities available to students in rural areas. According to a study by the National Center for Education Statistics, rural students have less access to early childhood opportunities than their urban and suburban counterparts. Therefore, Representative Hare's amendment would require states to detail how they plan to breakdown barriers to pre-K opportunities for the rural students in their state.

We urge the committee's full support for the adoption of both of these amendments as well as the manager's package. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Mary Kusler'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name 'Mary' being larger and more prominent than the last name 'Kusler'.

Mary Kusler  
Assistant Director, Government Relations