

# **CONGRESSMAN DAVE REICHERT**

## ***STRENGTHENING PUBLIC EDUCATION***

- **Improving School Safety:** Successfully passed an amendment providing funds to upgrade and install important school safety technology so that schools are prepared for emergencies like campus violence, natural disasters and acts of terrorism. (*H. AMDT. 129 to H.R. 2187, 5/13/2009*)
- **Preventing School Violence:** Successfully passed an amendment to provide new resources for a federal program that helps schools combat sexual harassment, bullying and gang-related violence. (*H.Amdt.230 to H.R. 2874, 6/17/2009*)
- **Providing Tax Relief for Educators & Supporting Professional Development:** Introduced legislation to increase and make permanent the maximum deduction allowed for teachers purchasing classroom supplies from \$250 to \$500 and expand the deduction to include professional development expenses. (*H.R. 3758, 10/8/2009*)
- **Increasing Access to Higher Education for Low Income & Disadvantaged Students:** Co-authored legislation that would authorize federal funding for the Grants for College Access and Completion program to support innovative and effective approaches that are improving college-going and college-graduation rates for low-income students. Funding supports mentoring, outreach, and other services that encourage disadvantaged students to enter and complete college. (*H.R. 3259, 7/20/2009*)
- **Reducing Class Size:** Successfully passed an amendment to reduce class size in our schools, in order to improve the learning environment and promote the individualized instruction students need to excel. (*H.Amdt.1075 to H.R. 3021, 6/4/2008*)
- **Modernizing and Renovating Schools:** Supported legislation to provide states and local education agencies grants for the construction, modernization, renovation and repair of public kindergarten, elementary, and secondary schools. (*RC#259, 5/14/2009*)
- **Funding for Special Education (IDEA):** Cosponsored legislation which would fully fund IDEA by 2015 and fulfill the federal government's promise to provide 40 percent of the national average per-pupil expenditure; ensuring that every special needs student receives the quality education and attention they deserve. (*H.R. 3578, 1/13/2010*)
- **Investing in STEM Education:** Supported \$85.6 billion in funding for science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education and basic science research to keep our nation competitive in the global economy and at the forefront of innovation and technological development. The legislation also increases coordination among existing federal STEM education programs and improves STEM teaching and learning in higher education. (*RC#332, 5/28/2010*)
- **Keeping Rural Schools Open:** Sent letter to President Obama urging him to include a long-term reauthorization of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act (SRSCA) in his FY2012 budget request to Congress. Cosponsored legislation to reauthorize the Secure Rural Schools program to prevent school closures resulting from sudden changes in rural communities' economies and the funds available to sustain rural schools. (*H.R. 17, 1/5/2007, H.R. 3058, 10/23/2007, RC#387, 6/5/2008*)
- **Supporting Federally Impacted Schools:** Cosponsored legislation to remedy the chronically late distribution of Impact Aid payments to school districts. The bill requires the Department of Education to allocate the full amount of Impact Aid funding due to school districts no later than two fiscal years following the year in which the funding was originally appropriated. (*H.R. 5843, 7/22/2010*)
- **Recognizing Outstanding School Employees:** Cosponsored legislation to create a National Classified School Employees of the Year Award. Classified school employees are often among the least recognized and lowest paid; this legislation will pay tribute to their many contributions to our nation's schools and the students they serve. (*H.R. 2377, 1/13/2010*)

- **Reforming No Child Left Behind/ESEA:** Cosponsored legislation directing the Secretary of Education to establish a Volunteer Teacher Advisory Committee to advise Congress and the Department of Education on the effects of ESEA in classrooms, with its focus solely on children and families, because no one better understands the impacts of ESEA on the classroom learning environment and student achievement than our teachers. (*H.R. 2377, 1/13/2010*)
- **Meeting Security Needs through School Resource Officers:** Successfully secured more than \$600,000 for School Resource Officers (SRO's) in King County. SRO's are a vital resource to our schools; helping to develop safety and security policies, and teaching classes focusing on crime prevention, substance abuse, and gang resistance. Original Cosponsor of legislation recognizing the services provided by school resource officers in improving the safety and security of schools and communities across the United States. (*H.Res. 1554, 7/30/2010*)
- **New Resources for Higher Education:** Supported a \$66 million increase in funding for higher education programs; \$1.9 billion increase for Title I schools; and a \$540 million increase in education for the disadvantaged programs. Opposed the President's veto of this legislation to ensure our schools and students receive the funding necessary to continue their pursuit of success. (*RC#686, 7/19/2007, RC#1122, 11/15/2007*)
- **Providing for Underserved Students:** Supported comprehensive early childhood development services for low-income and homeless children, giving some of our neediest children the head start they need so they're fully prepared for kindergarten. (*RC#285, 5/2/2007, RC#1090, 11/14/2007*)
- **Making College More Affordable:** Consistent supporter of cutting the interest rates on subsidized student loans in half and increasing the maximum Pell Grant to \$9,000. Also protected students and families by ensuring disruptions in the financial markets do not prevent students from pursuing their higher education goals. (*RC# 204, 4/17/2008; RC #32 1/17/2007, RC#613, 7/11/2007, RC#40, 2/7/2008*)

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*"Washington educators appreciate Rep. Reichert's support for public schools, students and education employees. He understands the need to invest in quality public education."*

**~Washington Education Association President Mary Lindquist**