

DAVID LOEBSACK
2ND DISTRICT, IOWA

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Congress of the United States
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August 11, 2011

Honorable Arne Duncan
Secretary, U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, DC

Secretary Duncan,

We are writing in regard to your recent decision to eliminate the Office of Safe and Drug Free Schools and create the Office of Safe and Healthy Students. Recognizing the alarming trends related to crime, violence, discipline, safety and health in schools across the country, we will be closely watching the transition of these programs and urge your continued commitment to creating schools that are safe, healthy, engaging and supportive.

It is our expectation that the new Office of Safe and Healthy Students will strengthen the federal government's long-standing support for state and local efforts tailored to the needs of local communities. We hope the new office will continue to implement proven programs that increase the number of students:

- Who are safe and not victims of bullying or other violence
- Who are mentally and physically healthy
- Who have strong social and emotional skills
- Who refrain from alcohol, tobacco and other drug use
- Who report caring and supportive relationships with adults in their family, in school and the community

Programs that improve these 'conditions for learning' are an essential component of our national strategy aimed at promoting excellence and innovation in the classroom and closing the achievement gap. These programs have been shown to improve student achievement, make schools and communities safer, save tax dollars, allow for state and local flexibility, empower parents and guardians with additional information about their child's education and encourage community members to play an active role in school success.

We look forward to working with you to ensure that schools are able to effectively assess conditions for learning and implement proven strategies to continuously improve the teaching and learning environment.

Sincerely,



Rep. Dave Loeb sack



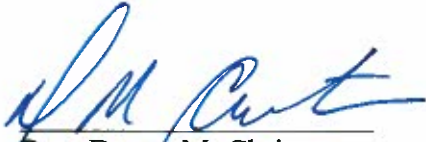
Rep. Jim McDermott



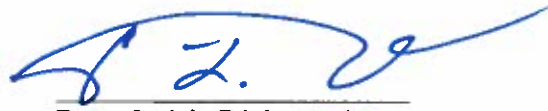
Rep. Earl Blumenauer



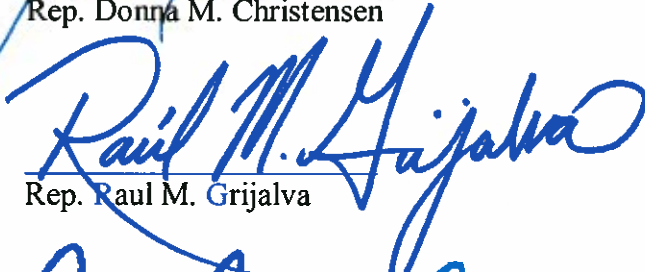
Rep. Charles Rangel



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Rep. Pete Stark



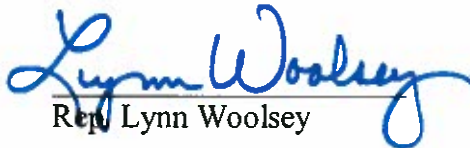
Rep. Dale Kildee



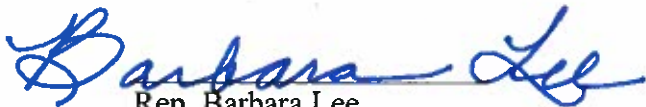
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