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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

January 4, 2010

The Honorable Arne Duncan,
Secretary
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20202

Dear Secretary Duncan:

As the U.S. Department of Education considers applications for Race to the Top funding through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, I would like to bring to your attention a strong proposal submitted by the State of Ohio.

Ohio has commenced its new biennium with a comprehensive education reform plan, and funding provided through the Race to the Top program would accelerate the state's existing agenda to strategically address gaps in delivering a highly effective learning experience to all students.

Ohio is in a unique position to expand its accountability system, increase the use of value-added data, invest in a comprehensive human capital management system, create differentiated roles and expand responsibilities in the licensure structure, and create a four-year residency program to provide greater support and professional development to new educators.

I am confident that the state will provide the supports and best practices necessary to turn around persistently low-achieving schools, and expand STEM education opportunities, as well as improving the overall effectiveness of classroom instruction through investments in best practices, standards and curriculum, assessments, and technology.

Please give serious consideration to Ohio's application for funding. I ask that you keep my office informed of the status of this application

Sincerely,



Sherrod Brown
United States Senate

SB: lm