



June 17, 2013

The Honorable John Kline, Chairman  
The Honorable George Miller, Ranking Member  
Committee on Education and the Workforce  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Kline and Ranking Member Miller:

As the House Education and the Workforce Committee is set to mark-up the *Student Success Act* (H.R. 5), we want to express our support for the equitable services provisions for private and religious school students and teachers that are strengthened in the bill.

Catholic school students and their teachers have participated in ESEA programs since the inception of the program. More than 80% of Catholic schools have students eligible to receive services, and had been doing so equitably with their public school counterparts. However, the number actually served has diminished significantly since the enactment of the *No Child Left Behind Act* in which funding formulas and set-asides created significant inequities that impacted our students and teachers. The provisions in H.R. 5 would help correct those inequities and would strengthen the safeguards designed to ensure equitable participation.

We are pleased to see that Sections 120 and 501 of H.R. 5 contain the important changes that would improve to the ability of our students and teachers to access the services that the original intent of ESEA was meant to provide. Thank you for continuing to ensure that equitable services to students and teachers in Catholic schools will continue to help students achieve their potential.

The National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA) is the largest private, professional education association in the world. Founded in 1904, the Association membership represents more than 200,000 educators serving 7.6 million students in Catholic education at all levels.

Sincerely,

Karen M. Ristau, EdD  
President

Dale McDonald, PBVM, PhD  
Director of Public Policy