



Secretariat of Catholic Education

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June 17, 2013

The Honorable John Kline, Chairman
The Honorable George Miller, Ranking Member
Committee on Education and the Workforce
US House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Kline and Ranking Member Miller:

Please accept my gratitude and support for including much needed clarification and specificity in the *Student Success Act* (H.R. 5) regarding participation by private school students. For several years, it has been our central concern to restore equitability to the funding, quality and implementation of Title I in the private school sector. H.R. 5 represents a substantial and concrete step toward that goal.

For the past ten years, many of our low income, academically needy students have been cut from the list of participants who were eligible to receive tutoring services in Math and/or Reading. Because the equitable share of Title I funds was consistently shrinking, only the neediest students who were achieving at months, and even years below grade level, “made the cut”. In some LEA’s the quality of the services was weakened: fewer and shorter tutoring sessions, larger “small” groups that reduced a teacher’s ability to address each child’s needs, reducing services to 20 weeks rather than the recommended 30.

Throughout the United States, 53% of our 6,685 Catholic schools participate in Title I-A. Our local Administrators, in consultation with their LEA’s, facilitate the provision of services to 117,000 students. Where frequent and consistent tutoring has been provided by qualified teachers throughout the school year, our students have consistently improved their level of academic achievement. My hope is that the *Student Success Act* will allow all eligible academically needy students enrolled in private schools to benefit in like manner. Thank you for strengthening and supporting that goal.

Sincerely,

Sister Suzanne Bellenoit, SSJ
Associate Director for Public Policy