



SEQUESTRATION IS HARMFUL TO LATINO AND OTHER UNDER-SERVED STUDENTS

- ❖ Congress must find a legislative compromise to stave off the negative impact of the automatic budget cuts (sequestration). Although the recent bipartisan budget compromise lowered the impact of sequestration; it did not completely repeal it. LULAC maintains that sequestration must be repealed. Full impact of sequestration would mean:
 - Some 209,785 fewer English language learners (ELLs) would be served by Title III of ESEA and 450 educators working with ELLs would be out of work. Given that almost 80 percent of ELLs speak Spanish as their primary home language, any cut to Title III would mostly be felt by the Hispanic community.
 - 1,181,600 fewer students nationwide would be served by Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), and 9,910 educators and school personnel would lose their jobs. Given that Hispanic students make up 36 percent of the students served by Title I today, any cut to Title I would disproportionately harm Latino students.

ESEA REAUTHORIZATION MUST INCLUDE STRONG MEASURES OF ACCOUNTABILITY

- ❖ H.R. 5, “The Student Success Act,” passed by the House in August of 2013 and opposed by LULAC, lacks strong federal oversight provisions that help ensure that English language learners, low-income students, children of migrant workers, and students with disabilities are not left behind.
 - The bill shifts the focus away from college and career preparedness, and severely undercuts resources for critical programs that have already been weakened by the effects of sequestration.
- ❖ Instead, Congress must pass ESEA legislation that requires states to establish accountability systems that set performance, growth, and graduation targets for all students to ensure that they are college and career ready.
 - Without this type of language, many students could fall further behind their peers, diminishing their chances of attending college.

HEA REAUTHORIZATION

- ❖ Any Higher Education Act reauthorization must include strong reforms that increase support and resources for post-traditional students – students at community colleges, part-time students, students who rely on financial aid, etc. Congress must also support strong accountability measures by the Department of Education on for-profit colleges and universities. LULAC also supports making DREAMERS for financial aid resources. Supports Rep. Polis and Castro’s Investing IN States To Achieve Tuition Equity (IN-STATE) for Dreamers Act of 2014.

MONITOR THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION’S ISSUANCE OF ESEA WAIVERS

- ❖ The U.S. Department of Education has granted waivers to states which exempt states from specific accountability requirements of the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001. These waivers allow states to develop and implement their own plans to monitor student progress and achievement.
 - However, a recent report by the Campaign for High School Equity (CHSE) has shown that waivers provide less accountability for the educational success of underserved students, including Latino students. Unfortunately, 41 states including the District of Columbia have already been granted these waivers.
 - ESEA waivers are good for two years, after which states will be subject to extension reviews.
- ❖ Congress must express concern to the U.S. Department of Education regarding this policy.
 - Congress must monitor the implementation of waivers and finds ways to incentivize states to use data models to keep track of how Latino students are performing. Moreover, effective action plans that help improve the academic performance of struggling students should be developed.

EXPAND STEM EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES FOR LATINO STUDENTS

- ❖ Expanding STEM opportunities for underserved students is of vital importance to LULAC and our country as we look to provide our youth with skills that can translate into the comprehensive program for science, technology, education and math (STEM) into the workplace.
- ❖ Providing resources to help students gain the technological skills needed in this high- tech economy will ensure that Latino students are successful in the 21st century. Support expansion and modernization of programs like E-Rate.