



## League of United Latin American Citizens

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December 2, 2016

U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC), the nation's oldest and largest Latino civil rights organization, I urge you to oppose the *Every Student Succeeds Act*, a bill to reauthorize the Elementary and Secondary Education Act.

Over the past 50 years and several reauthorizations, the ESEA has served as the bedrock of civil rights education law. It has invested critical dollars in schools with underserved students, and has ensured accountability for the performance of students of color. Most importantly, it has provided much needed oversight of states and school districts with poor records of serving students of color.

The *Every Student Succeeds Act* released this week does not fully address all the issues of importance to our organization including, subgroup accountability, data, resource equity, and the federal oversight of failing schools. Students of color represent the new majority of students in our public schools. To guarantee their success, any reauthorization of ESEA must include the strongest language possible on these critical issues. The conference process has also been troubling. The fact that not a single member of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus was appointed as a conferee for the final ESEA negotiations between the House and Senate resulted in the Latino voice being shut out.

These concerns aside, we acknowledge that the legislation could have been much worse. We appreciate the attempts of lawmakers, including Senator Patty Murray and Representative Robert "Bobby" Scott, to fight to protect the civil rights legacy of the ESEA. We also acknowledge the roles of our allies in the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, including Representatives Ruben Hinojosa and Raul Grijalva, who have championed Latino education issues for years.

That aside, LULAC cannot support a bill that concedes so much federal oversight and power to the states – especially given that many states are failing to meet the needs of Latino students. The stakes are too high to allow the pendulum to swing so forcefully away from robust federal oversight of our public schools. On behalf of the 135,000 LULAC members in 37 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico, I urge you to oppose this legislation. Please feel free to have your staff reach out to Luis Torres, LULAC Director of Policy, at [latorres@lulac.org](mailto:latorres@lulac.org) should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Roger C. Rocha, Jr.  
LULAC National President