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February, 25, 2015

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 largest and oldest Latino civil rights organization, I write to express opposition to H.R. 5, the *Student Success Act*. While our organization appreciates that the House recognizes the need to update the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), we cannot support H.R. 5 as we believe the bill falls far short of providing the protections needed for vulnerable students.

Of particular concern is portability language in the bill which would siphon scarce federal dollars from under-served schools and shift them to potentially higher resources campuses. In fact, the Department of Education released data that finds that under H.R. 5 school districts with the highest concentration of Latino students could lose more than \$1.9 billion in federal funding.

In addition, LULAC is also concerned with the lack of provisions that hold schools accountable for the achievement of underserved students, a group that includes Latinos and other students of color, English language learners, low-income students, children of migrant workers, and students with disabilities. Without federal provisions requiring subgroup accountability and corresponding intervention measures from states, our nation risks undoing the progress previously made in diminishing educational disparities, as states would no longer be held accountable for the progress of specific student subgroups.

Strong federal oversight creates a needed check on states that, left to their own devices, would fail to ensure these protections. In addition to subgroup accountability, LULAC is also concerned that the language in the latest version 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.

For these reasons, we cannot support *The Student Success Act*, as written. Please feel free to have your staff contact Luis Torres at [latorres@lulac.org](mailto:latorres@lulac.org) if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Margaret Moran  
LULAC National President