



League of United Latin American Citizens

February 10, 2015

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The Honorable John Kline
Chairman
Committee on Education and the Workforce
U.S. House of Representatives
2181 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Kline:

On behalf of the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC), the nation's largest and oldest Latino civil rights organization, I thank you for your leadership as the Committee moves forward with the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). While our organization appreciates that the Committee recognizes the need to update the ESEA, we cannot support the latest version of the *Student Success Act* as we believe that significant changes proposed in the bill fall far short of providing the protections needed for vulnerable students.

Specifically, LULAC is most concerned with the Committee's decision to remove 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 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. Furthermore, the bill does not include strong enough language to ensure that scarce federal dollars are targeted at improving the education of the most underserved students in our schools. For these reasons, we cannot support *The Student Success Act*, as written.

We look forward to working with you to help address some of these critical shortfalls as Congress moves forward with the reauthorization of the ESEA. Please feel free to have your staff contact Luis Torres at latorres@lulac.org if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Margaret Moran
LULAC National President