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March 18, 2014

The Honorable Diane Feinstein
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Feinstein,

On behalf of the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC), the nation's oldest and largest Latino civil rights organization in the country, I write to express our organization's opposition to S. 1968 and S. 1909. These bills, which seek to block grant and voucherize critical funds currently available to serve public school students, would divert crucial resources away from longstanding accounts in the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). These funding streams currently serve countless of underserved Latino students and deliver crucial resources for states to provide services to students with disabilities.

S. 1968, authored by Senator Alexander, seems especially troubling. According to some sources, this bill would funnel \$24 billion in taxpayer money, or 63% of current federal K-12 dollars, to private schools in the form of vouchers. We also agree with other education advocacy organizations that the bill would divert critical resources intended to go to public schools with increased numbers of under-served students and high concentrations of poverty, undermining the purpose of Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA).

S. 1909, authored by Senator Scott, has also raised red flags with our organization. According to sources, this bill would funnel more than \$11 billion dollars of taxpayer money to private schools by voucherizing funding streams in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), and reducing Impact Aid, among other irresponsible actions.

On behalf of the over 135,000 members of LULAC, I urge you to oppose these and other similar bills that may attempt to weaken and divert resources from longstanding funding streams serving underserved and minority populations. We are counting on your leadership to stand up for Latino children and look forward to hearing from you on this critical topic.

Please feel free to reach out to Luis Torres at latorres@lulac.org or [202-833-6130](tel:202-833-6130) should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Margaret Moran
National President
League of United Latin American Citizens