



December 7, 2015

United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator:

National PTA and our nearly 4 million members and 22,000 local units in every U.S. state, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands and Europe **urge you to vote in support of the bipartisan Every Student Succeeds Act (S. 1177)** which passed the U.S. House of Representatives by a significant vote on December 2, 2015.

As the nation's oldest and largest volunteer child advocacy association, representing parents, students, educators and business and community leaders, National PTA has had a significant impact on the education and well-being of America's children. Our association has consistently advocated for a bipartisan and comprehensive reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act/No Child Left Behind (ESEA/NCLB).

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) contains several laudable family engagement provisions, including a Statewide Family Engagement Centers program. This program will provide states and local school districts with the capacity to support effective implementation and enhancement of family engagement policies and initiatives. The bill also includes improvements to Title I that will require school districts to conduct evidenced-based family engagement activities that are proven to make a difference for students and support school improvement.

Additionally, this bill provides greater flexibility to states and school districts to meet the needs of all students. National PTA is pleased the legislation calls for the annual assessment of students within state-designed accountability systems that allow for multiple measures of student achievement. The association also supports provisions in ESSA that will ensure all students receive a well-rounded education by increasing access to STEM education, technology and the arts. Lastly, our members are encouraged that the bill authorizes funds for activities to improve school climate, school safety and address bullying and harassment.

National PTA applauds Representatives John Kline and Bobby Scott and Senators Lamar Alexander and Patty Murray for their bipartisan and bicameral leadership in this process to produce a final bill. The Every Student Succeeds Act is a marked improvement over current law and will provide much needed certainty for families, educators and schools. Our nation's students and families have waited too long for the reauthorization of ESEA/NCLB, and we ask that you support to this important piece of legislation when it comes up for a vote.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Laura M. Bay".

Laura Bay
President
National PTA

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nathan R. Monell".

Nathan R. Monell, CAE
Executive Director
National PTA