



September 30, 2015

The Honorable John Kline
2439 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Lamar Alexander
455 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Bobby Scott
1201 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Patty Murray
154 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Kline, Chairman Alexander, Ranking Member Scott, and Ranking Member Murray:

As your committees prepare to begin conference negotiations to reauthorize the Elementary and Secondary Education Act/No Child Left Behind (ESEA/NCLB), National PTA and our nearly 4 million members—that include parents, teachers, students, administrators and community leaders—urge you to maintain language found in Titles III and IV, respectively in the Student Success Act (H.R. 5) and the Every Child Achieves Act (S. 1177) that reauthorizes Statewide Family Engagement Centers. In addition, we request the conference committee maintain the one percent local educational agency (LEA) set-aside for family engagement in Title I, and include language from S. 1177 that encourages LEAs to invest additional resources in family engagement.

Family engagement is essential and a key element of student achievement and school improvement, which is why Statewide Family Engagement Centers (SFEC) must remain in the final reauthorization of ESEA/NCLB—as a reauthorized and improved form of the Parental Information and Resource Centers (PIRC) program in NCLB. Both ESEA/NCLB reauthorization bills recognize the importance of family engagement by including this important program, along with providing targeted resources for family engagement in high-need schools.

Our association has heard the demand from both chambers to put families at the forefront of their child's education—because they know what is best for their child. We could not agree more, and believe Statewide Family Engagement Centers and direct supports to engage families at the local level are the vehicles to make that happen.

Over 40 years of research shows that family engagement is critical for student success and students whose families are involved attend school more regularly, earn better grades, enroll in higher-level programs and have higher graduation rates. Statewide Family Engagement Centers and other key family engagement provisions within the bill will provide states, school districts,



schools and educators the infrastructure and resources to better engage with families to further the academic and developmental progress, and success of students.

National PTA looks forward to working with you and the members of the conference committee to ensure a bipartisan and comprehensive ESEA/NCLB reauthorization bill with critical family engagement provisions becomes law.

Thank you for your commitment to ensuring that every child has access to a high quality public education and the opportunity to reach their full potential.

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