

Sample Letter

(date)

The Honorable _____
United States Senate / House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20510 / 20515

RE: REAUTHORIZATION OF THE ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION ACT

Dear Senator / Representative _____;

As your constituent, I urge you to do everything possible to support a strong reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), which is now in the hands of a conference committee. We should not squander this opportunity to provide a better public education to every American child, regardless of his or her race, ethnicity, gender, disability, socioeconomic status, indigenous language, or where they live.

Specifically, I support the inclusion of four basic elements in any final draft to ensure that the law is as strong as it can be and that it helps as many of our children as possible. These four elements are:

- **Accountability:** States must be required to identify schools where all students or groups of students are not meeting goals and to intervene in ways that raise achievement for students not meeting state standards;
- **Transparency:** It is critical that states transparently report on student groups in order to understand how all of our students are doing and what their needs might be;
- **Resource Equity:** States must be able to and required to intervene to remedy disparities in access to resources between school districts and that the comparability loophole be closed; and
- **A strong Federal Role:** The U.S. Secretary of Education must have sufficient authority to ensure the law is appropriately implemented and the most vulnerable students are protected.

It is my hope that you will do all that you can to ensure that these four basic elements are included in a final bill which is produced by the conference committee for consideration by the full House and Senate. Please contact me in the very near future to let me know what you are doing to protect America's students' rights and what more I can do to help.

Sincerely,

(sign and print your name and
remember to include your address)

**Remember to contact your
Representative and BOTH
your Senators.**