

BUSINESS COALITION
FOR
STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

June 18, 2008

TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

On behalf of the Business Coalition for Student Achievement (BCSA), representing business leaders from every sector of the economy and whose membership is listed below, we strongly urge you to oppose any legislative proposals, including those that may come up through the appropriations process, that would weaken accountability for improving student achievement under the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB).

BCSA believes that NCLB can be improved in ways that enhance the ability of schools to serve students, but that any proposals should be carefully examined through the usual committee consideration process. Specifically, BCSA believes that any proposal that would suspend the NCLB requirements to identify schools in need of improvement raises many serious concerns and deserves a thorough debate in its development. Such a suspension proposal would result in removing from students, teachers, schools, and parents additional resources and assistance devoted to ensuring improved academic achievement for those students and schools most in need. These resources that would be removed include additional school improvement funds for local schools and extra technical assistance for teachers in their efforts to boost student achievement.

The BCSA believes that improving the performance of the K-12 education system in the United States is essential for ensuring the American education system prepares our youth to succeed and our nation to be competitive in our rapidly changing world. BCSA supports exploring these improvements through a process that allows for a thorough and deliberate examination of how best to support our students, teachers, and schools in their improvement efforts. The traditional process allowing for guidance from the authorizing committees, who have developed policy expertise, will allow for careful examination of the various school improvement and reform proposals, and should be followed.

BCSA stands firm in its support for the key principles of NCLB. This law has been instrumental in focusing our nation, through information reported to parents and the public, on improving the academic achievement of all students and closing the achievement gap. The business community understands the importance of a high quality education for all students, and BCSA will continue to call for strong accountability for improved achievement.

Sincerely,



Arthur J. Rothkopf
Senior Vice-President and Counselor to the President
U.S. Chamber of Commerce



Susan Traiman
Director, Education and Workforce Policy
Business Roundtable

BCSA Member Organizations

Accenture
AeA
A.O. Smith Corporation
Eli Broad, Philanthropist/Businessman
Business Coalition for Education Excellence (NJ)
The Business Council of Alabama
The Business-Higher Education Forum
Business Roundtable
California Business for Education Excellence
Chamber of Commerce of Fargo Moorhead
Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce
The Connecticut Business and Industry Association
Con-Way
Corporate Voices for Working Families
Eastman Chemical Company
EDS
Education Industry Association
Educational Options, Inc.
EMC
Ernst & Young
Florida Chamber of Commerce
GlaxoSmithKline
Greater Dallas Chamber of Commerce
The Greater El Paso Chamber of Commerce
Hewlett-Packard
Hypower Inc.
IBM
Illinois Business Roundtable
Indiana Chamber of Commerce
Intel
ITT Corporation
Jefferson Parish Workforce Business Center
Johnson City-Jonesborough-Washington Chamber of
Commerce (TN)
Kalispell Area Chamber of Commerce
Liberty Mutual Group
Lima Allen County Chamber of Commerce
The McGraw-Hill Companies
MetroWest Chamber of Commerce
Micron Technology, Inc.
Microsoft
Minnesota Business Partnership
Minority Business RoundTable
Montana Chamber of Commerce
Motorola
Naperville Area Chamber of Commerce
National Association of Manufacturers
National Center for Educational Accountability
National Defense Industrial Association
National Roofing Contractors Association
Nationwide
Nevada Manufacturers Association
New Jersey Chamber of Commerce
New Mexico Business Roundtable
Ohio Business Roundtable
Oklahoma Business Education Coalition
Pilgrim's Pride Corporation
Prudential Financial, Inc.
Racine Chamber of Commerce
Rhode Island Education Partnership
Rochester Area Chamber of Commerce
SAS
Scholastic Inc.
ScienceCompanion
Semiconductor Industry Association
Siemens Foundation
Software & Information Industry Association
State Farm
TechNet
Texas Association of Business
Texas Instruments
Textile Rental Services Association
Union Pacific
Unisys Corporation
U.S. Chamber of Commerce
Warrick County Chamber of Commerce
Xerox Corporation

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