

BUSINESS COALITION
FOR
STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

February 15, 2007

To All Members of Congress:

As Co-Chairs of the Business Coalition for Student Achievement, we are writing to urge you to strengthen, improve and reauthorize the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act this year.

Our coalition represents business leaders from every sector of the economy. From our vantage point as employers who hire the graduates of U.S. schools, colleges and universities, we believe that raising student achievement in our K-12 schools is critical for our nation's competitiveness and for individual success in our rapidly changing world.

That is why we supported passage of NCLB in 2001, why we are committed to sustaining the fundamental features of this historic law that are designed to raise student performance and close achievement gaps, and why we are recommending specific enhancements to the law in 2007. The enclosed *Framework for Reauthorizing the No Child Left Behind Act: Recommendations to Improve and Strengthen the Law* calls on Congress to address six areas that need attention during reauthorization:

- Focus on college and workplace readiness.
- Emphasize science, technology, engineering and math.
- Enhance data-driven decision making.
- Increase teacher and principal effectiveness.
- Strengthen and refine accountability.
- Invest in school improvement and innovation.

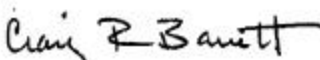
We have two cautions as Congress begins the reauthorization process:

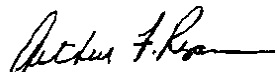
First, do not postpone reauthorization until after the 2008 Presidential election. Two years is a very long time in our worldwide economy. U.S. students must be prepared to succeed in this dynamic environment that places an increasingly high value on skills and knowledge.

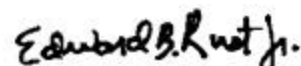
Second, be aware that there are myths and considerable misinformation about what NCLB does and does not require from educators. We hope you will listen to divergent views and visit schools where all students are achieving at significantly higher levels than they did in the past.

We stand ready to work with you on reauthorization of No Child Left Behind this year.

Sincerely,


Craig Barrett
Chairman
Intel


Arthur F. Ryan
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Edward B. Rust Jr.
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