

February 4, 2015

Representative Glenn Thompson
U.S. House of Representatives
Cannon House Office Building Room 124
Washington, DC 20515



Dear Rep. Thompson,

On behalf of the National Rural Education Advocacy Coalition and the National Rural Education Association, representing state and national organizations, as well as individuals, concerned about educational opportunities for children who live in rural areas of the United States, we write to express our strong support for, and appreciation of, the All Children Are Equal (ACE) Act. Your continued leadership on this important issue shines a light of the critical priority of targeting Title I dollars from the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) toward students in poverty.

ACE is an effective legislative fix to the flawed number weighting provision within the current Title I formula. The current formula takes money from smaller districts, no matter how high the percentage of disadvantaged students, and sends it to larger districts no matter how low their poverty rate. More than 10,000 school districts lose funding because of number weighting. Most high-poverty rural district lose funding. Very large suburban districts with low poverty rates but large numbers of students are among the biggest winners due to number weighting.

By 'turning down the volume' on the number weighting brackets within the Title I formula, ACE works to ensure that Title I dollars are distributed in a manner consistent with original Congressional intent and helps deliver Title I dollars to those schools with the highest concentration (percentage) of students in poverty.

This is an issue of both equity and government effectiveness, and the ACE Act, in ending number weighting, makes the Title I formula not only more fair, but also more effective at accomplishing its state purpose. NREA and NREAC are proud to support this legislation and look forward to working with you as this bill moves forward.

Sincerely

Noelle Ellerson
Legislative Liaison

Sasha Pudelski
Legislative Liaison