

June 8, 2013

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



Dear Rep. Thompson,

On behalf of the National Rural Education Advocacy Coalition (a group of state and national organization concerned about educational opportunities for children who live in rural areas of the United States) and the National Rural Education Association (a group of rural educators, ranging from teachers to administrators), I write to express our strong support for, and appreciation of, the All Children are Equal (ACE) Act. Your leadership on this important issue shines a light on the very important priority of targeting Title I dollars from the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) toward students in poverty.

As the House Education and the Workforce Committee moves forward with its efforts to reauthorize ESEA, we commend your continued commitment to this very important issue and strongly support both the ACE Act and your plan to include it as an amendment to the Student Success Act (H.R. 5), Chairman Kline's ESEA bill.

ACE would be a strong addition to the base ESEA bill, given its broad bi-partisan support. The ACE Act's co-sponsors come from both sides of the aisle, on and off of the committee, a level of support that highlights the importance of this issue.

ACE is an effective legislative fix to the flawed number weighting provision within the current Title I formula. Number weighting redirects funds away from all smaller districts—both urban and rural—regardless of their poverty rate and toward a handful of the largest districts, regardless of how low their poverty rate. 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. AASA applaud your leadership on this issue, support the ACE Act, and encourage the full committee to support the ACE Act as an amendment to the larger ESEA reauthorization bill.

Sincerely,

Noelle Ellerson

Legislative Representative