



June 4, 2013

The Honorable Glenn "GT" Thompson
U.S. House of Representatives
124 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Thompson:

On behalf of Save the Children's U.S. Programs, I want to express our strong support for the re-introduction of the *All Children are Equal* (ACE) Act. Your leadership to address the need to reform Title I so that funding is fairly distributed without regard to geography is critical to ensure fairness for all students living in poverty.

We commend your commitment to consider this important legislation, and given the bipartisan consensus that the ACE Act enjoys, we are hopeful that the Committee will choose to support the bill. Your leadership to promote the discussion and consideration of the Act is greatly appreciated.

In rural America, one in four children lives in poverty. These children are both educationally and financially disadvantaged compared to their urban and suburban peers. Save the Children works in more than 150 low-income, rural communities. We provide supplemental services including early childhood education to ensure that infants and toddlers have a strong foundation for learning before they enter school as well as literacy programming for children in grades K-6 to hone the skills necessary to succeed academically.

ACE would effectively address the flawed number weighting provision under the current Title I formula, where small rural schools unfairly lose much needed funding to larger districts. Many of these rural schools, including ones where we operate our programs, have much higher poverty rates and fewer community resources compared to the larger schools receiving these funds. ACE would ensure that Title I funding would be distributed towards schools with the highest concentration of students in poverty.

Again, Congressman Thompson, thank you for your continued support and leadership on this important issue. If you have questions, please feel free to contact me ahysell@savechildren.org or 202-640-6638.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrew Hysell".

Andrew Hysell
Associate Vice President, US Programs
Save the Children