

July 7, 2011

The Honorable Glenn “GT” Thompson  
United States House of Representatives  
124 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Rep. Thompson:

The American Farm Bureau Federation supports the *All Children are Equal Act (ACE Act)*. Farm Bureau believes strong rural schools are vital to enhancing the lives of rural Americans and will lead to building strong and prosperous rural communities. The *ACE Act* corrects a major flaw related to number weighting in the current formula used to allocate Title I funds for the education of disadvantaged students under the *Elementary and Secondary Education Act*.

Title I funding was intended to send funds to school districts with a high concentration of poverty. Instead, the current formula systematically discriminates against the school districts it was intended to benefit, rural, small town and moderate-sized urban districts with a high concentration of poverty.

Number weighting redirects funds from smaller districts, both rural and urban, no matter how high their poverty rate, to a handful of the largest districts, regardless of their poverty rate. The *ACE Act* corrects the Title I formula and secures funding for school districts with the highest concentrations of poverty.

Title I should function as Congress intended it to. Passage of the *ACE Act* will rectify the failure of the current formula. The *ACE Act* will end number weighting and make the Title I formula more effective.

We thank you for your leadership by introducing the *ACE Act* and welcome the opportunity to work with you and the *ACE Act* co-sponsors to secure its passage.

Sincerely,



Bob Stallman  
President