



AMERICAN FARM BUREAU FEDERATION®

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July 16, 2013

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

The Honorable Louise Slaughter  
United States House of Representatives  
2469 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Reps. Thompson and Slaughter:

The American Farm Bureau Federation supports H.R. 2658, 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