



BIPARTISAN POLICY CENTER

April 2, 2015

The Honorable Lamar Alexander
Chairman, Committee on
Health, Education, Labor & Pensions
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray
Ranking Member, Committee on
Health, Education, Labor & Pensions
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Alexander and Ranking Member Murray:

As members of the Bipartisan Policy Center's Governors' Council, we applaud the bipartisan progress made in the Senate with regard to reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA).

We appreciate your leadership and diligent efforts to find bipartisan consensus on the nation's federal education policy. We are also pleased to join with the National Governors Association (NGA) and National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) in calling for ESEA reform that creates more opportunities for governors to ensure that K-12 programs are better integrated into the overall educational landscape.

During our tenure as governors, we worked to ensure that high-quality learning opportunities began with early childhood education, continued through postsecondary education, and extended into the workforce. We believe that the next ESEA must include a recognized role for governors, who are in the unique position of bringing education stakeholders into the discourse on elementary secondary education. As state leaders, governors have the ability to accelerate education reform and align ESEA in a manner that will increase school readiness and make certain that every student is ready for college and a career. We hope that your soon-to-be-released draft includes a strong role for the nation's governors, so they can better integrate and align all learning and training options available. As a council of former governors, we stand ready to assist in helping you achieve these goals.

Sincerely,

Governor Jim Douglas

Governor Linda Lingle

Governor Sonny Perdue

Governor Mike Beebe

Governor Christine Gregoire