

EDUCATION, CIVIL RIGHTS, AND BUSINESS LEADERS SUPPORT THE TEACH ACT

"The TEACH Act...is the boldest, most serious, and most comprehensive federal legislation on teacher quality that I have seen to date...If we are to honestly answer the challenge posed by outsourcing of American jobs and give our future workforce the edge to compete with increasingly advanced economies in Asia and elsewhere, we have no choice but to apply new ideas and resources to make teaching a top tier profession for the best and brightest Americans...Support for the TEACH Act should not break on partisan lines."

- Louis V. Gerstner, Jr., Former Chairman, IBM, and Chairman, The Teaching Commission

"MALDEF endorses the TEACH Act because it will help to ensure that our nation's teachers are fully prepared to meet the academic needs of all students. The TEACH Act's emphasis upon preparing teachers to address the specific educational needs of English Language Learners is particularly critical. We strongly encourage Congress to adopt the TEACH Act to support high-quality instruction for all students."

- John Trasviña, President and General Counsel, Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF)

"As other nations increasingly focus on innovations in science, technology, engineering and math, the United States cannot afford to fall behind. It is critically important to improve elementary and secondary math and science teaching in order to raise student achievement in these subjects, and prepare and motivate young people to enter these fields. Miller has been a consistent champion for raising U.S. student achievement, and the focus on improving math and science teacher quality in this initiative deserves bipartisan support."

-John J. Castellani, President, Business Roundtable

"It's enormously important that we continue to take innovative steps to boost the quality and effectiveness of our educators and that we use powerful data systems to measure our students' progress. That's what Mayor Bloomberg is doing in New York City. The TEACH Act will help to address the need for high quality teachers in hard-to-staff areas and will help to measure and reward teacher effectiveness."

-Joel Klein, Chancellor, New York City Department of Education

"This is a bold initiative that addresses key challenges...This bill embraces two important insights -- great classrooms are led by excellent teachers and great schools are led by effective principals... This hard-hitting bill addresses a variety of factors that stand in the way of high-quality teaching and nation-wide academic achievement... The TEACH Act...supports the work of educators across the country, resulting in an education system that will allow all students to reach their highest potential in the classroom and in life."

- Jonathan Schnur, CEO, New Leaders for New Schools

"We are pleased that Rep. Miller and other Members of Congress have introduced legislation to address the challenge of recruiting, developing, motivating and retaining excellent teachers for America's neediest classrooms. This legislation recognizes the key factors in ensuring that every child has a high-quality teacher in every classroom. These include strong, school-based professional development; the ability for teachers to move up a career ladder with more responsibility and more pay; a fair and clear evaluation system... we must make teacher quality, particularly in high-need schools, a top education priority. This challenge is one of the most critical facing the nation."

-Lewis Solomon, President, Teacher Advancement Program Foundation

"The TEACH Act is an important step in the right direction in addressing teacher quality and teacher support issues in low-income communities. The Act will attract outstanding individuals with strong academic backgrounds and will also make it more financially feasible to teach in these communities...We are especially enthusiastic about provisions that focus on strong academic backgrounds for educators...and the provisions that focus on building mentor relationships...we thank you for your leadership."

- Wendy Kopp, President and Founder, Teach for America

"The National School Boards Association's Council of Urban Boards of Education (CUBE) Steering Committee would like to support your legislation, *Teacher Excellence for All Children of 2005*. Please list the Council of Urban Boards of Education, the urban component NSBA, as one of the proud supporters of this much-needed legislation. We support this legislation with its purpose to increase the supply of outstanding teachers, recruit and retain the teachers who are making a difference in the lives of our children, identify and reward accomplished teachers, and ensure that all students have qualified teachers who are experts in their subject area. We support the work you are doing on behalf of America's children on Capitol Hill.

- Dr. Brian Perkins, Chair, National School Boards Association's Council of Urban Boards of Education and Board President, New Haven Public School District

"Commendably, this bill tackles a wide range of issues pertaining to the teacher quality challenge with thoughtful approaches that include strong accountability measures, responsible innovation, and appropriate roles for federal involvement in this critical issue. The bill keeps in focus what is in the best interest of school children by seeding important reforms that will help make teaching a more attractive and satisfying choice of professions."

-Kate Walsh, President, National Council on Teacher Quality

"This legislation would provide teachers with the training and support needed to provide all U.S. students with high-quality instructional services, and would particularly help improve the educational status of Hispanic students. The TEACH Act would ensure that our nation's teachers receive the training and support they need to provide high-quality instructional services to all students, including Hispanics and ELLs. NCLR strongly supports the TEACH Act and urges its adoption by the House of Representatives."

-Janet Murguia, President and CEO, National Council of La Raza

"The TEACH Act takes a bold step toward reducing teacher attrition and improving teaching by helping states and school districts better train, recruit, and retain quality teachers for the neediest students. The TEACH Act could not come at a more important time...An investment like this pays for itself – sharply reducing the cost of teacher turnover, boosting academic performance, and providing students the opportunity to earn higher wages that lead to greater tax revenue. The Alliance commends Congressman Miller for his introduction of this bill and looks forward to working with Congress to help ensure that federal policies such as these can become a reality."

- Former Governor Bob Wise, President, the Alliance for Excellent Education

"The policies proposed by Congressman Miller could change the dynamic in our struggling schools...While others bemoan the problem of attracting our best teachers to teach in our hardest-to-staff schools, George Miller is rolling up his sleeves and getting to work. This proposal changes the conversation from 'we can't' to 'here's how we can.'"

-Kati Haycock, Director, Education Trust

"The Children's Defense Fund strongly supports this legislation. By increasing the supply of outstanding teachers, ensuring all children have teachers with knowledge of their subject area, and helping schools to attract and retain the best teachers and principals, this Act will significantly improve achievement for all children. Investments like this are necessary if we are to truly address the needs of our disadvantaged youth."

-Marian Wright Edelman, CEO and Founder, Children's Defense Fund

"It is time to mobilize the nation to teach for America's future. Yesterday's students went to school to learn to do the job – but today learning *is* the job. Transforming our schools into genuine learning organizations staffed by qualified teachers and principals is the most important commitment we can make to our children as they prepare for their future. The TEACH Act is a promise to our teachers and students that we will not let them down as they work to make our diverse democracy thrive in a challenging world."

- Tom Carroll, President, National Commission on Teaching for America's Future