June 7, 2010

The Honorable George Miller, Chairman  
House Committee on Education and Labor  
2181 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable John Kline, Ranking Member  
House Committee on Education and Labor  
1210 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Miller and Ranking Member Kline:

We, the undersigned organizations, write to share our support for the Family Engagement in Education Act (H.R. 5211), bipartisan legislation introduced by Congresswoman McCarthy and Congressman Platts.

As you know, family engagement in education improves student achievement, attendance, and behavior and reduces the dropout rate. Family engagement is also cost-effective; research has demonstrated that schools would have to increase spending by over $1000 per pupil to achieve the same results.

The Family Engagement in Education Act ensures shared responsibility between families, communities, and educators for closing the achievement gap. This legislative proposal provides much-needed incentives and guidance for districts and schools on research-based family engagement practices that drive school improvement, such as investing in professional development for teachers and school leaders on effective models of family engagement or conducting parent leadership academies. This bill establishes statewide coordinating councils comprised of families, educators, the early learning and higher education community, and community, faith-based, and business organizations to coordinate and integrate statewide family engagement initiatives from cradle to career.

The Family Engagement in Education Act strengthens the Parental Information and Resource Centers (PIRCs), to provide high-quality capacity-building to schools, LEAs, and SEAs to scale-up research-based family engagement practices that drive student achievement. To meet the unique needs of local communities, this bill establishes a pilot demonstration program for local family engagement centers that would remove barriers to family engagement and provide direct services to families.

We thank you for leading the bipartisan effort to reauthorize ESEA and prepare all students to be successful in college and career. We support the Family Engagement in Education Act as a critical step toward ensuring a sound partnership between educators and parents to improve the education of our nation’s children.

Sincerely,

American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (AACAP)  
Afterschool Alliance  
Alliance for Children and Families
American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (AACTE)
American Association of University Women (AAUW)
American Federation of Teachers
Americans for Religious Liberty (ARL)
Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD)
Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law
Campaign for Youth Justice
Center on School, Family, and Community Partnerships at Johns Hopkins University
Child Welfare League of America (CWLA)
Community Action Partnership
Council of Juvenile Correctional Administrators (CJCA)
Family Friendly Schools
First Focus Campaign for Children
Knowledge Alliance
Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights Under Law
League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC)
Learning Disabilities Association of America
Mental Health America
National Alliance of Black School Educators
National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP)
National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth
National Association of School Psychologists
National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP)
National Coalition of ESEA Title I Parents
National Coalition for Parent Involvement in Education
National Coalition of Parental Information and Resource Centers (NC PIRC)
National Council for Community and Education Partnerships (NCCEP)
National Collaboration for Youth
National Council of La Raza (NCLR)
National Council on Independent Living (NCIL)
National Disability Rights Network
National Down Syndrome Congress
National Down Syndrome Society
National Education Association
National Head Start Association (NHSA)
National Indian Education Association (NIEA)
National Middle School Association
National Network for Youth
National ParentNet Association
National Parent Teacher Association
National Staff Development Council
National Women’s Law Center
Parents as Teachers (PAT)
Parents for Public Schools
Phi Delta Kappa International
Points of Light Institute
Public Education Network
SEDL
Southern Poverty Law Center
The Search Institute
United Church of Christ Justice & Witness Ministries
United Neighborhood Centers of America (UNCA)
United Way Worldwide
Women of Reform Judaism
YMCA of the USA
Youth Justice Institute

**Alabama**
Alabama Parent Education Center
Alabama PTA

**Alaska**
Alaska PIRC
Alaska PTA
United Way of Southeast Alaska

**Arkansas**
Jones Center for Families/Arkansas PIRC
Arkansas PTA
Rural Community Alliance of Arkansas

**Arizona**
Arizona PTA
Arizona State PIRC
The Chandler Education Foundation

**California**
California Association for Bilingual Education/ CA State PIRC-1 Project INSPIRE
California State PTA
First 5 Alameda County
PIRC at Cambridge Academies-Modesto, CA
Planning for Change- Oakland, California
United Ways of California
United Way of the Bay Area-San Francisco, CA
United Way of San Diego County

**Colorado**
Clayton Foundation
Colorado PTA
Colorado Parent Information and Resource Center (CPIRC)
Colorado Statewide Parent Coalition
Connecticut
Connecticut PTSA
CT State PIRC
United Way of West Central Connecticut-Bristol, CT

Delaware
Delaware PTA
Parent Information Center of Delaware (Delaware PIRC)

District of Columbia
DC Congress of Parent Teacher Associations
Multicultural Community Service – D.C. PIRC

Florida
Florida PTA
Florida PIRC of FND
Hernando County Schools Title I Parent Involvement Program
United Way of Florida, Inc
United Way of Northeast Florida- Jacksonville, FL

Georgia
Georgia PTA
GA Parental Information & Resource Center
Communities In Schools of GA

Guam
Guam Parent Information and Resource Center
Guam’s Positive Parents Together

Hawaii
Aloha United Way-Honolulu, HI
Hawaii State PTSA
Hawaii Parent Information Resource Center
Parents And Children Together- Honolulu, HI

Idaho
Idaho PTA
Idaho PIRC
Family Advocates-Boise, ID
Advocates Against Family Violence- Nampa/Caldwell, ID
Family Services Alliance -Pocatello, ID
Help Inc.,-Idaho Falls, ID
ICARE/St. Vincent de Paul -Coeur d’Alene, ID
Illinois
Center for Community Arts Partnerships, Illinois PIRC
F.U.N. Families Understanding the Needs-Chicago, IL
Illinois PTA
United Way of Metropolitan Chicago-Chicago, IL

Indiana
Beta Mu Chapter of the Delta Kappa Gamma Society International
Indiana PTA
Indiana Partnerships Center, Indiana PIRC
Mitchell Elementary- Muncie, IN

Iowa
Iowa PIRC
Iowa PTA

Kansas
Kansas PTA
Kansas Learning First Alliance
Kansas National Education Association
Kansas Parent Information Resource Center

Kentucky
Center for Parent Leadership-Lexington, KY
Kentucky PTA
Kentucky Parent Information and Resource Center
Metro United Way- Louisville, KY
United Way of Northern Kentucky

Louisiana
Louisiana Association of United Ways
Louisiana PIRC
Louisiana PTA
United Way of Central Louisiana

Maine
Maine PTA
Maine Parent Federation
United Way of Eastern Maine-Bangor, ME
United Way of Greater Portland-Portland, ME
United Way of the Tri-Valley Area-Farmington, ME
United Way of York County-Kennebunkport, ME
Maryland
Anne Arundel County Council of PTAs
Empowering Minds Foundation, Inc. – Lanham, MD
Maryland State Association of United Ways
Maryland Student Tutorial Service - College Park, MD
Maryland PTA
Mid-Atlantic Equity Consortium, Inc.

Massachusetts
Massachusetts PIRC at the Federation for Children with Special Needs- Boston, MA
Massachusetts PTA

Michigan
Michigan Early Childhood Investment Corporation
Michigan PTSA
Michigan Parent Information and Resource Center (PIRC)
United Way of Genesee County-Flint, MI
United Way for Southeastern Michigan-Detroit, MI

Minnesota
Greater Mankato Area United Way-Mankato, MN
Mankato Area Public Schools-Mankato, MN
Minnesota PTA
PACER Center

Missouri
Burrell Behavioral Health
Missouri PTA
Missouri PIRC at LIFT-Missouri

Mississippi
Mississippi PTA
Mississippi PIRC

Montana
Greater Gallatin United Way 945 –Bozeman, MT
Montana Parent Information & Resource Center
Montana PTA
United Way of Missoula County-Missoula, MT
United Way of Yellowstone County -Billings, MT
Nebraska
Nebraska PTA
Nebraska State PIRC
Nebraska Children & Families Foundation
United Way of Lincoln and Lancaster County-Lincoln, NE

Nevada
Nevada PTA
Nevada State Parent Information and Resource Center (PIRC)
The Education Alliance of Washoe County, Inc.

New Hampshire
New Hampshire PTA
New Hampshire State PIRC, The Parent Information Center of New Hampshire

New Jersey
New Jersey PTA
Prevent Child Abuse New Jersey
United Way of Atlantic County-Galloway, NJ
United Way of Greater Mercer County
United Way of Greater Union County- Elizabeth, NJ
United Way of Morris County-Morristown, NJ
United Way of Passaic County-Paterson, NJ

New Mexico
New Mexico PTA
United Way of Santa Fe County-Santa Fe, NM
Parents Reaching Out

New York
Agenda for Children Tomorrow-Brooklyn, NY
EPIC – Every Person Influences Children, Inc
Learning Leaders-New York, NY
New York State PTA
United Way of New York City-New York, NY
United Way of Seneca County- Waterloo, New York

North Carolina
Catawba County United Way- Hickory, North Carolina
Exceptional Children's Assistance Center
North Carolina PTA
United Way of North Carolina
North Dakota
Fargo South High School PTA
Pathfinder Parent Center
North Dakota PTA
North Dakota State PIRC

Oklahoma
Oklahoma PTA
Oklahoma PIRC

Ohio
Ohio PTA
United Way of Central Ohio-Columbus, OH
United Way of Greater Cincinnati/Ohio PIRC

Oregon
Oregon PTA

Pennsylvania
Family Connection of Easton, Inc.-Easton, PA
Oxford Area School District-Oxford Pennsylvania
Pennsylvania PTA
United Way of Erie County-Erie, PA
United Way of Lancaster County-Lancaster PA
United Way of York County-York, PA

Rhode Island
Rhode Island Parent Information Network
Rhode Island PTA
Rhode Island State Parent Information and Resource Center
United Way of Rhode Island-Providence, RI

South Carolina
South Carolina PIRC
South Carolina PTA
United Way Association of South Carolina

South Dakota
South Dakota PTA
South Dakota Parent Information and Resource Center
Tennessee
Tennessee PTA
Tennessee Voices for Children
Tennessee State PIRC
United Way of Anderson County-Oakridge, TN
United Way of the Mid-South-Memphis, TN
United Way of Rutherford and Cannon Counties-Murfreesboro, TN
United Ways of Tennessee

Texas
Texas PTA
United Way of San Antonio & Bexar County –San Antonio, TX
United Way of Southern Cameron County –Brownsville, TX
United Way of Tarrant County-Fort Worth, TX
United Ways of Texas

Virgin Islands
VI PUSH

Utah
Utah PIRC
Utah PTA

Vermont
Vermont PTA

Virginia
Embrace Diverse Schools- Springfield, VA
Smart Beginnings Central Virginia-Lynchburg, VA
United Way of South Hampton Roads-Norfolk, VA
Rappahannock United Way-Fredericksburg, VA
Virginia PIRC
Virginia PTA

Wisconsin
Family Resource Center St. Croix Valley, Inc.-Baldwin, WI
Families and Schools Together, Inc.-Madison, WI
Parents Plus, Inc.
United Way of Dane County, Madison, WI
Wisconsin PTA

Washington
United Way of Pierce County –Tacoma, WA
Washington State PTA
West Virginia
West Virginia PTA

Wyoming
Parents Helping Parents of WY, Inc
Wyoming State PTA