March 10, 2015

The Honorable Robert Casey
United States Senate
393 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Casey:

As organizations committed to ensuring that every child has equal access to fully-prepared and effective educators, the undersigned members of the Coalition for Teaching Quality (CTQ) write today to thank you for your leadership in introducing the Better Educator Support and Training (BEST) Act and express our full support for this important legislation.

The Coalition for Teaching Quality is comprised of over 100 national, state, and local organizations committed to the principle that federal policy must ensure all students, particularly those who are traditionally underserved, have access to teachers and school leaders who enter the profession well-prepared to succeed and who prove themselves effective once there. Together, we represent a diverse spectrum of civil rights, disability, parent, student, community, educator, rural, higher education, and education policy organizations.

As you know, teachers, principals and specialized instructional support personnel and other educators are necessary for students to succeed in school. Yet research shows that under-trained, uncertified, inexperienced, and out-of-field teachers are disproportionately concentrated in schools and classrooms filled with students who would benefit most from excellent educators.

The BEST Act amends Title II of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) to create a comprehensive continuum for the education profession and begins to address the challenges identified above. It also encourages locally driven, evidence-based residency, induction, and professional development programs for teachers, principals, and specialized support staff to improve student achievement. Additionally, provisions to encourage the equitable distribution of profession-ready, experienced, effective, licensed teachers for all students and to encourage diversification of the educator workforce will improve student outcomes.

As Congress continues to debate the reauthorization of ESEA, we are pleased to endorse this legislation and look forward to working with you to improve access to excellent educators for every child.

Sincerely,
The Coalition for Teaching Quality (member list attached)
### National Organizations

- Alliance for Excellent Education
- Alliance for Multilingual Multicultural Education
- American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education
- American Association of People with Disabilities
- American Association of State Colleges and Universities
- American Council for School Social Work
- American Council on Rural Special Education
- American Federation of Teachers
- ASPIRA Association
- Association of University Centers on Disabilities
- Autism National Committee
- Autistic Self Advocacy Network
- Broader Bolder Approach
- Center for Teaching Quality
- Citizens for Effective Schools
- Coalition for Community Schools
- Council for Exceptional Children
- Council of Parent Attorneys and Advocates
- Disability Policy Collaboration, A Partnership of The Arc and UCP
- Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund Inc.
- Easter Seals
- Education Law Center
- FairTest, The National Center for Fair & Open Testing
- First Focus Campaign for Children
- Gamaliel Foundation
- Helen Keller National Center
- Higher Education Consortium for Special Education
- Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities
- Latino Elected and Appointed Officials
- National Taskforce on Education
- Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights Under Law
- League of United Latin American Citizens
- Learning Disabilities Association of America
- Movement Strategy Center
- National Alliance of Black School Educators
- National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities
- National Association of Elementary School Principals
- National Association of School Psychologists
- National Association of Secondary School Principals
- National Association of State Directors of Special Education
- National Board for Professional Teaching Standards
- National Center for Learning Disabilities
- National Commission on Teaching and America’s Future
- National Consortium on Deaf-Blindness
- National Council for Educating Black Children
National Council of Teachers of English
National Council of Teacher of Mathematics
National Disability Rights Network
National Down Syndrome Congress
National Down Syndrome Society
National Education Association
National Indian Education Association
National Latino Education Research & Policy Project
National Network of State Teachers of the Year
National Opportunity to Learn Campaign
National PTA
Opportunity Action
Parents Across America
Partnership for 21st Century Skills
Progressive States Action
Public Advocates Inc.
Public Advocacy for Kids
Rural School and Community Trust
School Social Work Association of America
Southwest Education Development Laboratory
TASH - Equity, Opportunity, and Inclusion for People with Disabilities
Teacher Education Division of the Council for Exceptional Children
TESOL International Association
The Arc
United Cerebral Palsy
United Church of Christ Justice & Witness Ministries

**State and Local Organizations**
Abbott Leadership Institute – Newark, New Jersey
Action Now – Illinois
Action Now– North Carolina
ACTION United
Alliance for Quality Education (AQE)
Alliance of Californians for Community Empowerment (ACCE)
Arkansas Community Organizations
Bay Area Parent Leadership Action Network
Brighton Park Neighborhood Council – Chicago
California Association for Bilingual Education
Californians for Justice
Californians Together
California Latino School Boards Association
Campaign for Quality Education
Center for the Future of Teaching and Learning
Coalition for Educational Justice
Citizen Action of New York
Delawareans for Social and Economic Justice
Educate Our State
Education Voters Pennsylvania
Grow Your Own Illinois
Inner City Struggle
Justice Matters
Legal Advocates for Children and Youth
Montgomery County Education Forum
Parent-U-Turn
Parents for Unity
RYSE Center
Texas Association of Chicanos in Higher Education
Young Voices-Providence, Rhode Island
Youth On Board – Somerville, Massachusetts
Youth Together