September 23, 2015

The Honorable John Kline  
Chairman  
Committee on Education and the Workforce  
2181 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Robert C. “Bobby” Scott  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Education and the Workforce  
2101 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Lamar Alexander  
Chairman, Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions  
428 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray  
Ranking Member, Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions  
154 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Kline, Ranking Member Scott, Chairman Alexander and Ranking Member Murray:

We would like to take this opportunity to express our strong support for the Education Innovation and Research (EIR) program that is included in the Every Child Achieves Act, the Senate’s Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) reauthorization bill.

As policymakers look for ways to promote innovation, reflect the importance of evidence, and ensure the efficacy of federal funding, the EIR program builds on proven strategies to support efforts by school districts, nonprofit organizations, institutions of higher education, and others to develop, validate, and scale up effective solutions to the challenges facing America’s schools. Modeled on the successful Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program run by the federal Small Business Administration, the Senate’s proposal would create a tiered system for awarding grants, designed to support programs and practices, that have clear evidence of effectiveness (as demonstrated through embedded evaluation) or a design that shows promise of effectiveness based on previous research findings.

We believe that EIR’s demanding framework for scaling and sustaining evidence-based innovations is the right approach to ensuring that federal education programs produce concrete, measurable results.

We urge Congress to signal the importance of developing, evaluating, and expanding evidence-based innovations in education by retaining the EIR program in any final ESEA reauthorization. Thank you for your consideration, and we look forward to working with you as the reauthorization process moves forward.

Sincerely,
10,000 Degrees
Achievement Network
AdvancED
Afterschool Allstars
Alliance College-Ready Public Schools
Alliance for Social Innovation
Alumni Revolution
America Forward
America's Promise
AppleTree Institute for Education Innovation
Arizona State Preparatory Academy
Aspire Public Schools
ASSET Leadership
Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD)
Atlanta Neighborhood Charter School
Atlantic Research Partners
Berea College
Beaverton School District
Blue Engine, Inc.
Boys & Girls Club, Greater Milwaukee
BPE
Cabarrus County Schools
California Association for Bilingual Education
California League of Middle Schools
CASA
Center for Community Arts Partnerships, Columbia College Chicago
Center for Research and Reform in Education, Johns Hopkins University
Center for Research in Education and Social Policy (CRESP), University of Delaware
Central Falls School District
Challenger Center for Space Science Education
Chiefs for Change
Children Youth & Family Collaborative
Children's Literacy Initiative
Citizen Schools
City Year
College of Education, Texas Tech
College Possible
Colorado Succeeds
Colorado Technology Association
ConnCAN
Council for Opportunity in Education
Curry School at the University of Virginia
Deans for Impact
Democracy Builders
Democracy Prep Public Schools
Democrats for Education Reform
Denver Public Schools
EDGE Consulting Partners
Edna Bennett Prevention Research Center, Penn State University
Education Analytics Inc.
Education Connection
Education Development Center (EDC)
Education Northwest
Education Reform Now
Edvance Research, Inc.
Empirical Education
Erikson Institute
Everyone Graduates Center
FHI360
Forum for Youth Investment
Freedom Preparatory Academy
Generation Citizen
Green Dot Public Schools
Hiawatha Leadership Academy
Higher Achievement Program
IDEA Public Charter Schools
INSPIRE (Infusing Innovative STEM Practices Into Rigorous Education)
International Network for Public Schools
Iredell-Statesville Schools
Jobs for the Future
Kentucky Valley Educational Cooperative
KIPP Foundation
Knowledge Alliance
KnowledgeWorks
Leading Educators
Learning Forward
Literacy Design Collaborative
Maricopa County Education Service Agency
Marzano Research
Massachusetts Business Alliance for Education
McREL International
Metropolitan Education Commission
MinnCAN
Montgomery County Schools, KY
My Teaching Partner
National Board for Professional Teaching Standards
National Institute for School Leadership
National Center on Time and Learning
National Center for Learning Disabilities
National Forum to Accelerate Middle-Grades Reform
National Prevention Science Coalition to Improve Lives
National Writing Project
New Classrooms
New Leaders
New Mexico StartSmart K-3 Plus
New Profit, Inc.
New Schools for New Orleans
New Teacher Center
New Visions for Public Schools
New York City Leadership Academy
New York Hall of Science
Niswonger Foundation
North Carolina New Schools
Northern Humboldt Union High School District
NWEA
NYC Leadership Academy
Old Dominion University
Ounce of Prevention Fund
Parents as Teachers
PATHS Education Worldwide
Public Impact
READS Summer Learning
Ready to Learn Providence
Results for America
RMC Research Corporation
Save the Children
School Reform Initiative
Search Institute
Seneca Family of Agencies
Sonoma State University
Southern Virginia Higher Education Center
Spurwink Services
SRI International
Stand For Children
StartSmart K-3 Plus, Utah State University
State Collaborative on Reforming Education (SCORE)
Success for All Foundation
Take Stock in Children
Talent Development Secondary
Teach For America
Teach Plus
The California League of Middle Schools
The Children’s Aid Society
The Mind Trust
The New York Hall of Science
The Policy & Research Group
The Providence Plan
TNTP
Turnaround for Children
United Way Denver
University of Alaska
University of California, Irvine
University of Minnesota
University of Missouri, College of Education
University of North Carolina at Greensboro
Urban Arts Partnership
Urban Teacher Residency United
Waterford Research Institute
WestEd
YES Prep Public Schools