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February 22, 2017

The Honorable Lamar Alexander
Chairman
Senate HELP Committee
428 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray
Ranking Member
Senate HELP Committee
428 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Alexander and Ranking Member Murray:

On behalf of the National Council of La Raza (NCLR), the nation's largest Latino civil rights and advocacy organization, I write to urge you to oppose H.J. Res. 57 and to support continued implementation of the bipartisan Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

As you know, NCLR has a long and significant history of working toward equity in education. NCLR was one of the first civil rights organizations to embrace standards-based education reforms. Additionally, NCLR worked with the Congress on the bipartisan efforts to find meaningful guardrails for students, while respecting state flexibility under the new law. H.J. Res. 57 targets rules that assist states in implementing effective accountability systems under ESSA. Upholding these federal regulations is of great importance to Latino students, who constitute the largest and one of the fastest-growing ethnic minorities in U.S. public schools. Moreover, over five million English learner (EL) students attend our public schools and more than three-quarters are Spanish-speakers. Accountability measures, and the inclusion of ELs and Latino students in those measures, are vital to providing a quality education to all students.

Many issues of importance to the Latino community rely on the proper implementation of ESSA's statutory requirements, coupled with additional protections provided by accountability safeguards, including:

- Maintaining high quality college-and-career ready standards and high quality assessments
- Developing uniform procedures to properly identify and serve ELs
- Assuring that schools having rigorous accountability systems for all student sub-groups

ESSA can, and should, be implemented to ensure a fair, equitable, and high-quality education for all students, including Latinos and ELs. It is for these reasons that NCLR urges Congress to reject H.J. Res. 57 and oppose other efforts to overturn these regulations under the Congressional Review Act (CRA) and continue to remain dedicated to providing a high-quality education and crucial safeguards for marginalized students.

Sincerely,

Eric Rodriguez
Vice President
Office of Research, Advocacy, and Legislation