



February 24, 2015

The Honorable
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative,

On behalf of the over 500,000 members of Concerned Women for America Legislative Action Committee (CWALAC), I would like to urge you to remedy the problems created by No Child Left Behind (NCLB) by supporting the A-Plus Act.

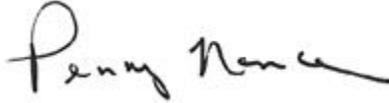
NCLB has become a bureaucratic nightmare, expanding spending and adding red tape. Burdensome reporting has become the norm for both teachers and administrators under No Child Left Behind. In fact, teachers and administrators have logged an additional 6.7 million hours of paperwork which takes them away from their job of educating our children.

NCLB testing policies have also been detrimental. NCLB requires states to test students annually and to demonstrate progress toward a national proficiency. Since schools cannot be seen to fail, this requirement has created a strong incentive for states to lower their standards so that more students pass. This threatens to eliminate accountability and academic transparency in American schools, and thus deny parents, educators and policymakers basic information about student performance. A one-size-fits-all federal approach to national testing hampers local school districts and hurts American students.

The A-PLUS Act, introduced by Representative Mark Walker (R-North Carolina) will remedy the problems created by NCLB. It is my sincere hope that you will support this bill that will allow states to opt out of the NCLB and provides schools with greater flexibility to create their own education programs to best suit their individual needs. The A-PLUS Act moves the educational decision-making from the federal government to the states and localities ensuring that the decisions made are the best ones for the students and provides meaningful accountability at the state level. A-PLUS will provide parents, schools and states with more flexibility, and reward performance.

A-PLUS rewards the schools by allowing them to be innovative and creative. They can design programs to best meet the needs of their students. A-Plus will give us what was originally intended by the No Child Left Behind Act before compromising changes shifted control from the states to Washington, D.C. This moves the authority back to the states so we don't have the one size fits all educational system. If the A-PLUS Act is considered on the House floor as an amendment to the Student Success Act, CWALAC urges you to support it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Penny Nance". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Penny Nance

CEO and President

Concerned Women for America Legislative Action Committee