

On ESEA Reauthorization

Given recent findings that more than half of America's schoolchildren are poor, we view the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) as an urgent legislative priority for the 114th Congress.

The Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee of the U.S. Senate circulated a draft reauthorization bill in January and is currently holding hearings to get input from educators, school officials, and others on key issues. In response, the International Literacy Association has adopted the following framework for our ESEA advocacy:

- ▶ **WE SUPPORT** federal policy that provides states and school districts with the resources to ensure that **every child receives a quality education** regardless of economic circumstance.
- ▶ **WE SUPPORT** amending the draft ESEA bill to include a **dedicated funding stream for a comprehensive literacy program targeting** early childhood, grades K–3, and grades 4–12.
- ▶ **WE SUPPORT increased federal funding for the professional development** of classroom teachers, literacy coaches, and literacy specialists.
- ▶ **WE SUPPORT reduced reliance on standardized tests** and the use of broader measures of student performance.
- ▶ **WE SUPPORT** the formulation of federal policy capable of **practical implementation**.

We stand ready to collaborate with other advocacy groups, the education policy community, and government representatives to help influence the development, passage, and enactment of a bill that accomplishes these goals, thereby bringing the transforming power of literacy to all of the nation's children, especially the neediest.

The INTERNATIONAL LITERACY ASSOCIATION is a global advocacy and membership organization dedicated to advancing literacy for all. We believe in the transformative power of literacy to create more successful societies, healthy communities, and prosperous economies. For the past 60 years, we have provided teachers and literacy leaders with the resources and expertise to support and inspire their students and each other.

We have set the standards and agendas for literacy instruction and evaluation. We have advocated for the cause of literacy before leaders at all levels. Our global community of 300,000 literacy practitioners is active in 75 countries.