



HISPANIC
EDUCATION
COALITION



National Hispanic Leadership Agenda

July 8, 2015
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Joint NHLA and HEC Position on H.R. 5, the Student Success Act

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the National Hispanic Leadership Agenda (NHLA), a coalition of 39 leading national Latino nonpartisan civil rights and advocacy organizations, and on behalf of the Hispanic Education Coalition (HEC), which unites 14 organizations dedicated to improving educational opportunities and outcomes for the more than 54 million Latinos living in the United States and Puerto Rico, we write to urge you to vote against H.R. 5, the Student Success Act.

On January 9, 2015, HEC released its Latino Priorities for Elementary and Secondary Education Act Reauthorization on January 9, 2015, which were subsequently endorsed by NHLA in February through its Latinos United for Educational Opportunity campaign. NHLA and HEC are both disturbed that H.R. 5 violates these principles by block granting Title III programs for English learners, removing performance targets for the academic achievement of Latinos and English learners, and removing accountability for the achievement and learning gains of Latinos and English learners.

The substitute amendment offered by Representative Scott restores the original intent of ESEA by requiring states to establish college- and career-ready standards in English, math and science for grades K-12 and high-quality assessments aligned to those standards. It requires states and districts to identify schools in need of support and to develop plans to improve achievement at these schools. The substitute authorizes increased funding for English language learners.

The missions of HEC and NHLA call for unity among Hispanics nationwide to provide the Latino community with greater visibility and a stronger voice in our nation's affairs, including increasing educational excellence for Latinos. NHLA opposes H.R. 5, the Student Success Act, and supports the Scott substitute. NHLA will closely monitor these votes on H.R. 5, and will include these votes in its scorecards evaluating members' support for the Latino community.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Adam Fernandez of MALDEF, at afernandez@maldef.org; Brenda Calderon of NCLR, at bcalderon@nclr.org; or Serena Davila of HACU, at serena.davila@hacu.net.

Sincerely,

Thomas A. Saenz
MALDEF, President and General Counsel
Co-Chair of HEC and Latinos United for Educational Opportunity

Eric Rodriguez
NCLR, Vice President, Office of Research, Advocacy, and Legislation
Co-Chair of HEC

Antonio R. Flores
HACU, President and CEO
Co-Chair of the NHLA Education Committee

[Click here to view Latino Priorities for Elementary and Secondary Education Act Reauthorization](#)

HEC Member Organizations: Aspira; Cuban American National Council; Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities; Intercultural Development Research Association; League of United Latin American Citizens; Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund; Migrant Legal Action Program Multicultural Education, Training & Advocacy; National Association for Bilingual Education; National Association for State Directors of Migrant Education; National Council for Community and Education Partnerships; National Council of La Raza; National Latino Children's Institute; and National Migrant and Seasonal Head Start Association.

NHLA Member Organizations: American G.I. Forum; ASPIRA Association; Avance Inc.; Casa de Esperanza; Cuban American National Council; Farmworker Justice; Hispanic Association of Colleges & Universities; Hispanic Federation; Hispanic National Bar Association; Inter-University Program for Latino Research; Labor Council for Latin American Advancement; LatinoJustice PRLDEF; League of United Latin American Citizens; MANA, A National Latina Organization; Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund; National Alliance of Latin American and Caribbean Communities; National Association of Hispanic Federal Executives; National Association of Hispanic Publications; NALEO Educational Fund; National Association of Latino Independent Producers; National Conference of Puerto Rican Women, Inc.; National Council of La Raza; National Hispanic Caucus of State Legislators; National Hispana Leadership Institute; National Hispanic Council on Aging; National Hispanic Environmental Council; National Hispanic Foundation for the Arts; National Hispanic Medical Association; National Hispanic Media Coalition; National Institute for Latino Policy; National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health; National Puerto Rican Coalition; Presente.org; SER Jobs for Progress – National; Southwest Voter Registration Education Project; United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce; United States Hispanic Leadership Institute; United States-Mexico Chamber of Commerce; and U.S.- Mexico Foundation.