

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 5, 2005

Dear Colleague:

Please join me in supporting Fiscal Year (FY) 2006 funding for Title V, Part A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. The Innovative Education Strategies State Grants program supports numerous critical initiatives in America's schools in helping them to meet requirements under the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB). Unfortunately, the President's FY 2006 Budget proposal included only \$100 million for this program – a decrease of \$98 million from FY 2005.

As the most flexible form of funding for the nation's schools, the Innovative Education Strategies State Grants program supports state and local efforts to implement new education reform programs, help meet the special needs of at-risk and high-need students, and support programs to improve school, student, and teacher performance. An important function of Title V, Part A funds is for the recruitment and training of highly qualified teachers.

If students are to perform at a proficient or above level, as required by NCLB, instruction must be improved. Accordingly, schools use Title V funds to both support the use of technology and data and align curriculum with state standards and assessments, to improve instruction. These initiatives support the goal of NCLB to achieve proficiency for all students. Additionally, Title V is the only ESEA program that allows the use of funds for gifted and talented programs. Moreover, schools use this funding to provide technology support and upgrades for rural areas, to establish pre-schools, summer schools and alternative schools, and to create and maintain innumerable literacy initiatives.

A reduction of Title V funds may erode the phenomenal progress the nation's schools have made under NCLB. In view of this, it is imperative that this funding is restored to the FY 2004 level of \$296 million. I hope that you join me in my efforts on behalf of this worthy program. If you have any questions or would like to sign the attached letter to the Labor, HHS, Education Subcommittee, please ask your staff to contact Melanie Benning at 4-8501.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Conrad Burns", written in a cursive style.

Conrad Burns  
United States Senator

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The Honorable Arlen Specter  
Chairman  
Senate Labor, HHS and Education  
Appropriations Subcommittee  
711 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tom Harkin  
Ranking Member  
Senate Labor, HHS and Education  
Appropriations Subcommittee  
731 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Specter and Ranking Member Harkin:

We urge your subcommittee to provide an increase in funding for the Innovative Education Strategies State Grants program or Title V, Part A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2006. This grant program provides one of the most flexible and critical sources of funding for our states and their school districts.

Due to the flexible nature of Innovative State Grants, these funds are often the sole source of support for the many unique education needs of the nation's schools and are instrumental in helping them meet the requirements of the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB, P.L. 107-110). School districts use Title V funds to support the recruitment and training of highly qualified teachers. In states where there are severe teacher shortages, school districts use these funds to supplement Title II, Part A funds. This funding supports teacher quality activities, including valuable professional development and recruitment.

If students are to perform at a proficient or above level, as required by NCLB, instruction must be improved. Accordingly, schools use Title V funds to both support the use of technology and data and align curriculum with state standards and assessments, to improve instruction. These initiatives support the goal of NCLB to achieve proficiency for all students.

In addition, Title V, Part A funds support countless effective programs tailored to meet the individual needs of both urban and rural states. School districts use Title V, Part A funding to support gifted and talented programs – Title V is the only ESEA program that allows the use of funds for gifted and talented programs. Also, schools use this funding to provide technology support and upgrades for rural areas, to establish pre-schools, summer schools and alternative schools, and to create and maintain innumerable literacy initiatives.

As you know, the President's Fiscal Year (FY) 2006 Budget request included \$100 million for the Innovative Education Strategies State Grants program – a decrease

