

January 11, 2022

Speaker Nancy Pelosi
1236 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy
2468 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Support for Strength in Diversity Act (H.R. 729)

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Minority Leader McCarthy:

We write in support of the Strength in Diversity Act of 2021 (H.R. 729) and ask that it be brought to a floor vote expeditiously. A very similar version of this bill passed the House of Representatives on a bipartisan basis in the 116th Congress and we urge both parties to support it again now.

Our organizations represent the interests of underserved students throughout the United States. We have seen how the diversity of this nation is our strength - one that our students should benefit from first-hand. The Strength in Diversity Act is a voluntary grant program that would support states and school districts that are seeking to better prepare their students for the 21st century workforce - one in which they are almost certain to be working with people who are different from them in one way or another.

The research is clear - all students attending diverse schools reap social and academic benefits. A synthesis of four decades of research highlights these benefits, including higher achievement in math, science, language, and reading; higher educational attainment; more advanced social and historical thinking; and increased civic participation. These benefits to individual students also benefit society.

Passage of the Strength in Diversity Act is particularly important as we are trying to emerge from a pandemic that has disproportionately negatively affected students of color and low-income students. Providing diverse school environments is one of the few steps that educators and policymakers can take that has a demonstrated record of success.

Thank you for your time and for your work to ensure that all students have access to inclusive learning environments. We look forward to the passage of the Strength and Diversity Act, as it is an important step to support our children's and our nation's collective success.

Sincerely,

All4Ed

American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education

American Atheists

American Civil Liberties Union

American Federation of Teachers

Autistic Self Advocacy Network

Capitol Region Education Council

Center for American Progress

Center for Educational Equity; Teachers College; Columbia University

Chicago Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights

Children's Defense Fund

Committee for Children

Communities in Schools

Council of Administrators of Special Education

D15 Parents for Middle School Equity

Education Law Center

EduColor

ERASE Racism

Girls Inc.

IntegrateNYC

Integrated Schools

Intercultural Development Research Association

Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law

Magnet Schools of America

METCO, Inc.

National Alliance for Partnerships in Equity

National Association of Secondary School Principals

National Black Justice Coalition

National Center for Montessori in the Public Sector

National Center for Youth Law

National Coalition on School Diversity

National Education Association

National Indian Education Association

National Urban League

New York Appleseed

North Carolina Justice Center

PDK International

Poverty and Race Research Action Council

Public Advocacy for Kids

School Diversity Notebook

Sikh American Legal Defense and Education Fund

Southern Education Foundation

South Side Early Learning

Teach Plus

The Advocacy Institute

The Arc of the United States

The Civil Rights Project at UCLA

The Education Trust

TNTP

TransFamily Support Services

UnidosUS

UnifiED

Voluntary Interdistrict Choice Corp

Submitted with the support of the following individuals (organization names listed for identification purposes only):

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cc:

The Honorable Robert C. "Bobby" Scott, Chairman, House Education and Labor Committee
The Honorable Virginia Foxx, Ranking Member, House Education and Labor Committee