advancing the cause of public education
The three million members of the National Education Association, our nation's largest professional organization, work at every level of education—from pre-school to university graduate programs. Our members also include retired educators and students preparing to become teachers. NEA has affiliates in every state and more than 14,000 communities across the United States.
Education is a “right that must be made available to all on equal terms.”

—United States Supreme Court, Brown v. Board of Education
WHAT A YEAR! The stakes for public education in this country have never been higher.

Since January, when the Trump administration took office, it has sometimes felt like all we hear is bad news. The whole idea of public education is under attack. Some Washington officials want to turn schools into profit centers where educators work for shareholders, not students, and slash support for the most vulnerable to pay for massive tax cuts for the rich.

The good news is that educators and others who believe in public education have never been more engaged or more energized. Messages are pouring into Congress via NEA’s properties at a record pace. During the first five months of 2017, educators and allies sent 2 million emails and made 90,000 phone calls to Congress—a tenfold increase over all of 2016.

This unprecedented activism was sparked by the nominations of Betsy DeVos as education secretary, Jeff Sessions as attorney general, and Neil Gorsuch as Supreme Court justice. Although we weren't able to keep them from being confirmed, we put our representatives in Congress on notice. Now, they know how strongly we oppose the administration’s plans to privatize public education and roll back support for the students most in need—and how hard we will fight to keep that from happening.

Rather than striving to improve the public schools that educate 9 out of 10 students, the Trump/DeVos budget for fiscal year 2018 cuts funding for the U.S. Department of Education by nearly 14 percent. If enacted, existing programs for the most vulnerable students would be scaled back or eliminated and more than $1 billion diverted to voucher-type schemes—despite the absence of any valid evidence that they help students learn.

The American Health Care Act, the House GOP leadership’s “replacement” for the Affordable Care Act, also known as Obamacare, threatens health care for the 36 million students covered by Medicaid/CHIP as well as federal reimbursement of school spending for students with disabilities—about $4 billion a year, according to the AASA, the school superintendents association. Quinnipiac University polled the public and found that just 17 percent supported the original version of the bill.

Immigration, civil rights, workers’ rights, and retirement security are in the administration’s crosshairs as well.

To be sure, we need to fight every one of these threats. But playing defense will not be enough. We also need to go on the offensive. So in addition to more of what we’re already doing—mounting demonstrations, making phone calls, sending emails, signing petitions—we need to strengthen alliances and build support at the grassroots level, starting with our own families, friends, and neighbors.

Public education is the foundation of democracy. When it is under attack, so is our democracy. That is why it is absolutely essential for us to speak out and advocate for what is right—for the 50 million students we serve and for ourselves as educators. If we don’t, who will?

Go. Fight. Win.

Lily Eskelsen García
President, National Education Association
June 1, 2017
Activism reaches new heights

With the election of Donald Trump as America’s 45th president, Republicans gained control of all three branches of the federal government. Their congressional majorities narrowed to 52-48 in the Senate and 239-193 in the House, with three seats vacant as we go to press. The Supreme Court is finally at full strength, with Neil Gorsuch replacing Antonin Scalia more than a year after his death.

As the 115th United States Congress was being sworn into office on January 3, 2017, NEA called for a renewal of our nation’s commitment to students and public education. We urged lawmakers to put students and families ahead of partisan politics, respect the experience and expertise of educators who know their students’ names and faces, and strive for a strong and inclusive system of public education in which all students can succeed.

Unfortunately, the Trump administration is taking a different direction.

Educators and our allies have responded by mobilizing in record numbers. In the first five months of 2017, NEA’s properties delivered 90,000 phone calls and nearly 2 million messages to Congress—10 times as many as the entire year before. By comparison, the 12-month campaign that culminated in passage of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) generated 284,000 emails and 25,000 phone calls to Congress.

For students and educators, the stakes could not be higher: the future of public education in America is at risk.

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EMAILS TO CONGRESS BY ISSUE
January 1-June 1, 2017

- Education secretary Betsy DeVos: 1,190,110
- Vouchers and similar schemes: 199,507
- Attorney general Jeff Sessions: 165,439
- Health care: 133,294
- Supreme Court justice Neil Gorsuch: 106,707

For students and educators, the stakes could not be higher: the future of public education in America is at risk.
DeVos nomination ignites grassroots opposition

Betsy DeVos, President Trump’s choice for U.S. Secretary of Education, has never managed, taught in, attended, or sent a child to an American public school. Instead, she has devoted herself to dismantling and privatizing our system of public education. For decades, she lobbied for—and bankrolled—vouchers, tuition tax credits, and similar schemes to fund private schools at taxpayers’ expense while requiring little or no accountability.

“Betsy DeVos is focused more on the bottom line for stockholders who profit off of public education than stakeholders in our public schools,” said Ginny Evans, NEA’s Republican educator chair.

NEA member Sarah Vigrass taught at California Virtual Academies, an online, charter school run by K12 Inc., a for-profit education company in which DeVos and her family were early investors. Vigrass joined parents and students in Washington to push back during the DeVos nomination fight. “The involvement of for-profit companies in public education is very problematic,” she said. “Education should be focused solely on students and their best interests. Schools like mine serve a second master: executives and shareholders who view kids not as tomorrow’s leaders and professionals, but as today’s revenue.”

During her confirmation hearings, DeVos struggled to answer basic questions about testing and school safety. When Senator Al Franken of Minnesota inquired about her views on the ways in which tests are used—to measure progress or proficiency—she clearly did not know the difference. Asked about banning guns from schools by Senator Chris Murphy of Connecticut—the state where 20 students and six educators were shot to death at Sandy Hook Elementary School—DeVos said they may be needed “to protect from potential grizzlies” in places like Wyoming.

But what really got to NEA member E-Ben Grisby, a Republican and special education teacher in Green Bay, Wisconsin, was her confusion and lack of knowledge about the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). “It angered me that she could be in charge of a federal education office and not even understand a law that is there to protect some of our most vulnerable students. How would she deal with equity and accessibility for students—or are those just non-issues to her?”

NEA’s opposition to DeVos ignited a wave of grassroots activism that spread across the nation, making headlines in the Washington Post and other leading news outlets. Hundreds of thousands of educators, parents, and other supporters of public education rallied, emailed, and made phone calls urging senators to oppose her nomination when it came to the floor. Before the vote on DeVos, the Capitol Hill switchboard received more phone calls than ever before in its long history.

The public outcry helped convince GOP Senators Susan Collins of Maine and Lisa Murkowski of Alaska to break with their party. They joined all 48 Democrats in voting “no,” and the Senate deadlocked 50-50. Ultimately, DeVos won confirmation by the narrowest possible margin, and only because Vice President Mike Pence weighed in—the first vice president in U.S. history to cast a tie-breaking vote for a Cabinet nominee.
Trump/DeVos agenda: privatize our public schools

NEA is working with education, disability, and civil rights groups to mobilize opposition to the president’s proposed budget for fiscal year 2018, the opening salvo in the Trump/DeVos privatization agenda. If enacted, the U.S. Department of Education’s budget would be cut by $9 billion, or nearly 14 percent. At least 22 programs would be eliminated and funding slashed for afterschool programs, smaller classes, professional development, Pell grants, career and technical education, and much more. At the same time, funding for vouchers and similar schemes would ramp up, starting with $1 billion for Title I portability, $250 million for a new federal voucher program, and $168 million more for charter schools.

Ultimately, the Trump/DeVos agenda calls for diverting as much as $20 billion from existing federal programs to vouchers and similar schemes when the public prefers investing in improving public schools. Those schemes could take the form of K-12 education “savings” accounts or tax breaks for corporations and wealthy individuals—for example, tax deductions for donations to “charitable” organizations that redistribute them as private school vouchers. Regardless of what they are called, they are still vouchers.

The president’s proposed budget also shatters an important bipartisan precedent of recent years: treating defense and non-defense discretionary programs equally. Instead, spending on defense would rise by $54 billion while spending on domestic programs like education would drop by an equal amount. After adjusting for inflation, the U.S. Department of Education’s budget would be the same as it was in 2008, when America had 4 million fewer students.

One in five children in America lives in deep poverty, and one in two is eligible for school meals. These realities underscore the need to invest more—not less—in education to help close opportunity gaps and realize the potential of ESSA, the latest version of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, the foundation of the federal presence in K-12 education.

The federal government got involved in public education in the first place to help level the playing field—to fulfill America’s promise of equal opportunity for all our children, no matter what zip code they live in. Vouchers take scarce resources from public schools and give them to private schools that are not accountable to the public. America and our students deserve better.
Health bill plays Robin Hood in reverse

The House passed the American Health Care Act (AHCA), a “replacement” for the Affordable Care Act, by a vote of 217-213 in May. The narrow margin of victory reflects the strong opposition mounted by NEA, our partners and allies, and the leading organizations representing doctors, nurses, and hospitals. The final shape of the bill has yet to be determined. “This process will not be quick or simple or easy,” said Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky, announcing that he had formed a 13-member working group to rewrite it.

Crafted by House GOP leadership, the AHCA plays Robin Hood in reverse. It would give the rich $664 billion in tax cuts while causing 23 million of the most vulnerable—children, the poor, the sick, and the elderly—to lose health coverage by 2026, according to the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office (CBO).

The most far-reaching potential change is a radical restructuring of Medicaid, the largest government-run health program with more than 70 million beneficiaries, half of whom are children. The federal government now pays a percentage of actual Medicaid spending. Under the AHCA, states choose between a block grant, a lump sum payment, and a “per capita cap,” a flat amount for certain Medicaid beneficiaries. Either way, state budgets take a big hit: the share of revenue spent on Medicaid will rise from 24.5 percent in 2017 to 28 percent by 2025, according to Moody’s Investors Service. To compensate for the loss of federal support, states are likely to divert money from education to health care as well as limit the number of Medicaid beneficiaries, the scope of Medicaid benefits, or both.

Special needs students would be among those hit the hardest. Under IDEA, Medicaid reimburses schools for mental health care, vision and hearing screenings, diabetes and asthma management, wheelchairs, hearing aids, and more. That support is substantial—for example, in 2015 California schools received about $90 million from Medicaid, Florida schools about $63 million, New York schools about $137 million, Pennsylvania schools about $131 million, and Texas schools about $250 million (Source: Centers for Medicare and Medicaid, compilation of 2017 data). Capping federal support for Medicaid would shift costs to the states, jeopardizing services essential for students to learn and thrive, especially those with disabilities.

To win the support of the ultra-conservative Freedom Caucus, GOP leadership adopted changes that make the AHCA even worse than it was originally. Under the bill passed by the House, states can adopt waivers that allow health plans to exclude now-required benefits like prenatal care, mental health services, and addiction treatment. Insurance companies can charge people with pre-existing conditions many times more than they charge healthy people, as they did before the Affordable Care Act prohibited the practice. Millions of Americans with pre-existing conditions could lose health coverage or face premiums so high only the very wealthy can afford them—the same people who benefit from the AHCA’s massive tax cuts.

Those tax cuts include repealing a 3.8 percent investment and 0.9 percent surcharge on wages above $250,000, a savings of about $195,000 per year for the top 0.1 percent of earners, according to the independent Tax Policy Center. The AHCA retains the 40 percent excise tax on “high cost” plans, which will affect many educators and other public servants, but pushes back the effective date from 2020 to 2026.

As we go to press, the Senate is beginning work on its own “replacement” for the Affordable Care Act. A number of senators, Republicans as well as Democrats, have voiced concerns about the proposed cuts in federal funding for Medicaid, the availability and cost of coverage for people with pre-existing conditions, and other provisions of the House bill.
Educators play big role in SCOTUS fight

NEA opposed Supreme Court nominee Neil Gorsuch largely because he has consistently ruled against students with disabilities, particularly in cases involving IDEA. Other concerns include a history of siding with big business at the expense of working people and embracing extreme views that could endanger workers’ rights on issues like employment discrimination, worker safety, and wages. In the end, Gorsuch was narrowly confirmed—but only because GOP leadership exercised the “nuclear option” and changed the Senate’s rules, lowering the number of votes required for Supreme Court confirmation from 60 to 51.

NEA succeeded, however, in raising awareness of the legal rights of students with disabilities—an achievement that will endure thanks to the activism and engagement of our members. From coast to coast, tens of thousands of educators rallied, signed petitions, sent emails, and made phone calls. Some also came to Washington, where they made a memorable impression in face-to-face meetings with senators and the media.

Jennie Campbell, a special education teacher from Aurora, Colorado, was one of those educators. “It’s important to me that my students have everything that they need to be independent in life. I am the one in the classroom every day working with my kids, and I can see the growth and I can see how they respond to interventions,” she said.

Cameron Hoxie, from Erie, Colorado, also came to Washington. He had a learning disability as a student and is now a special education teacher. “Through his rulings, Judge Gorsuch tells us that students with disabilities should only expect an education that is ever so slightly better than nothing,” he said.

The Supreme Court echoed his concerns in a remarkably timely ruling. During the Senate Judiciary Committee’s hearing on Gorsuch, it issued a unanimous 8-0 decision rejecting the “merely ... more than de minimis” standard Gorsuch had set in *Endrew F. v. Douglas County School District RE-1*, a 2008 case involving an autistic student’s right to an appropriate education under IDEA.

“When all is said and done,” the Supreme Court ruled, “a student offered an educational program providing merely more than de minimis progress from year to year can hardly be said to have been offered an education at all. For children with disabilities, receiving instruction that aims so low would be tantamount to sitting idly ... awaiting the time when they were old enough to drop out.”
Efforts to protect retirement security ramp up

NEA’s first National Retirement Security Advocacy Day, held April 27, was a huge success. The Board of Directors and Retired Executive Council converged on Capitol Hill to meet with lawmakers and build support for the Social Security Fairness Act, which fully repeals the Government Pension Offset (GPO) and Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP), and push back against privatizing Medicare.

Together, the GPO and WEP could deprive as many as 9 million hard-working Americans of the Social Security benefits they have earned—educators, police officers, firefighters, and other employees of state and local governments who dedicate their lives to public service.

The GPO reduces, by two-thirds, the Social Security spousal or survivor benefits of people not covered by Social Security themselves—for example, an educator with a pension of $900 per month and a spouse covered by Social Security loses $600 per month, her entire spousal benefit. The impact is harshest for those who can least afford the loss: lower-income women. Once the GPO kicks in, some have so little money they must turn to food stamps.

The WEP reduces, by up to 50 percent, the Social Security retirement, disability, spousal, or survivor benefits of people who work in jobs covered by Social Security and jobs NOT covered by Social Security over the course of their careers—for example, educators and other dedicated public servants who must take part-time or summer jobs to make ends meet.

NEA Vice President Becky Pringle met with Democrats on the House Education and the Workforce Committee to discuss using ESSA to identify opportunity gaps for students. “We’re challenging folks to take a $3.00 clipboard, a piece of paper and a #2 pencil, and take a test,” she said. “Walk into the best school in your state. Just start writing down what you see: a band, teachers certified to teach physics and calculus and art, counselors to help students make life-altering choices, caring and supportive staff who welcome families into the school, elaborate theater productions, girls’ volleyball, a chemistry lab, classes that offer college credit, debate, robotics, and foreign languages. That’s what EVERY school should look like.”

Cassie Harrelson, a math teacher who works with special education teachers in Aurora, Colorado, stressed the importance of giving educators a voice at a House Education and the Workforce Committee hearing on implementing ESSA. “I strongly believe that every child, regardless of family income, ethnicity, or home language, deserves to attend a school with opportunity,” she said. “It is time to give those with actual teaching experience the opportunity to have a say. This work is extensive but imperative so that that EVERY child, regardless of family income, ethnicity, or home language, has the opportunity to attend a great public school and succeed.”
As part of a coalition of 86 civil and human rights, faith, and environmental groups, NEA pressured Congress to provide funds to help address the crisis in Flint, Michigan, where the water supply contains toxic levels of lead. In a joint letter to the House, the groups noted that “10,000 children of Flint will suffer from lead poisoning because of this disaster. These children deserve environmental justice, and they deserve clean drinking water. It is absolutely astonishing that in the greatest nation in the world, one with so many resources, the people of Flint continue to lack the most essential of needs—clean drinking water.”

NEA succeeded in securing an exemption from the federal hiring freeze, imposed by President Trump shortly after he took office, for members of the Federal Employee Association, the affiliate that represents educators who work in schools run by the Department of Defense Education Authority (DoDEA). We also have kept at bay the Official Time Reform Act, which would deduct time spent on certain union activities from service credited toward the pensions of educators in DoDEA schools.

Senator Jeff Merkley of Oregon and Representative Mark DeSaulnier of California, both Democrats, reintroduced the Equality Act. The bill, which enjoys broad bipartisan support, provides explicit, permanent protections for LGBTQ people under our nation’s existing civil rights laws. Specifically, it amends Title II of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity in education, employment, housing, credit, and federal jury service. Nationwide, more than 70 percent of Americans support legislation to achieve the Equality Act’s goals, according to polling by the nonpartisan Public Religion Research Institute.

Senator Orrin Hatch of Utah and Representative Cathy McMorris Rodgers of Washington, both Republicans, introduced legislation to renew the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self Determination Act, which expired a year ago. The law provided essential services and support for over 9 million students in 4,400 rural schools located near national forests. “The funding we got last year was less than 60 percent of what it was back in 2008,” said NEA member Dana Dillon, a California teacher who flew to Washington to urge Congress to renew the law. “We used to have a full-time librarian—that was my job once—and now we haven’t had one in years. We cut music at one point due to the different funding sources being ratcheted down. We’re at bare bones already and if we lose our aides it’s going to be even harder. Losing school staff affects kids in terms of their classroom experience, but also personally.”
“Public education is the foundation of democracy. When it is under attack, so is our democracy.”

—Lily Eskelsen García, President, National Education Association
NEA POSITIONS ON BILLS

115TH CONGRESS (JANUARY-JUNE 2017)

☑ Supported by NEA
☒ Opposed by NEA
☐ Neutral

AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

☒ American Health Care Act (H.R. 1628) by Rep. Black (R-TN): Repeal major provisions of the Affordable Care Act, radically restructure federal funding for Medicaid to shift costs to the states, and provide nearly $1 trillion in tax cuts for the wealthiest Americans.

☒ GOP budget resolution for fiscal year 2017 (S. Con. Res. 3) by Sen. Enzi (R-WY): Repeal the Affordable Care Act without a replacement while paving the way for additional damaging changes in Medicare and Medicaid.

☒ Small Business Health Fairness Act (H.R. 1101) by Rep. Sam Johnson (R-TX): Exempt association health plans from adhering to Affordable Care Act and other consumer protections for small group coverage.

CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION

☑ Strengthening Career and Technical Education Act for the 21st Century (H.R. 2353) by Rep. Glenn Thompson (R-PA): Reflects many of NEA’s key principles for reauthorization including involving educators in decision-making, preparing educators to address the needs of all students, and addressing skills gaps.

CHILDREN’S HEALTH


☑ Breath of Fresh Air Act (H.R. 55) by Rep. Jackson Lee (D-TX): Amend ESEA to establish a grant program for purchasing nebulizers and training school staff to use them.

EDUCATION SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS

☑ Recognizing Inspirational School Employees (RISE) Award (S. 978/H.R. 2234) by Sen. Murray (D-WA) and Rep. Titus (D-NV): Establish an awards program for education support professionals who provide exemplary service to pre-K through postsecondary students.
**HIGHER EDUCATION**

- **American Dream Promise Act (H.R. 2071) by Rep. Veasey (D-TX):** Amend the Higher Education Act to provide that institutions participating in federal student aid programs cannot deny students admission based on their immigration or naturalization status.

- **College for All Act (S. 806/H.R. 1880) by Sen. Sanders (I-VT) and Rep. Jayapal (D-WA):** Allow students from families earning less than $125,000 to attend two-year community colleges and four-year public colleges and universities tuition- and fee-free.

- **Employer Participation in Student Loan Assistance Act (H.R. 795) by Rep. Rodney Davis (R-IL):** Amend the Internal Revenue Code to allow employers to make tax-free contributions towards their employees' student loans.

- **FAFSA for All Act (H.R. 2070) by Rep. Veasey (D-TX):** Amend the Higher Education Act to include guidance on how dependent students with parents without Social Security numbers may obtain federal student assistance.

- **Financial Literacy to Financial Freedom Act (H.R. 1193) by Rep. Trott (R-MI):** Amend the Higher Education Act to modify requirements for institutions that participate in federal student aid programs.

- **Higher Education Innovation Act (S. 615) by Sen. Bennet (D-CO):** Establish an alternative, outcomes-based process for authorizing innovative, high-quality higher education providers to participate in programs under Title IV of the Higher Education Act.

- **Housing for Homeless Students Act (S. 434/H.R. 1145) by Sen. Franken (D-MN) and Rep. Ellison (D-MN):** Amend the Internal Revenue Code to allow buildings to qualify for the low-income housing tax credit if they provide housing for homeless children, youth, or veterans who are full-time students.

- **Making Education Affordable Act (S. 718/H.R. 1710) by Sen. Peters (D-MI) and Rep. Polis (D-CO):** Amend the Higher Education Act to reauthorize the Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE) program and award grants that allow high school students to earn college credits.

- **Native American Indian Education Act (S. 660/H.R. 1528) by Sen. Gardner (R-CO) and Rep. Tipton (R-CO):** Amend the Higher Education Act to fulfill the federal mandate to provide higher educational opportunities for Native American Indians.

- **Pell Grant Preservation and Expansion Act (S. 1136/H.R. 2451) by Sen. Hirono (D-HI) and Rep. Susan Davis (D-CA):** Improve the purchasing power of Pell grants, permanently index the maximum grant to inflation, shift the program to mandatory funding, and restore eligibility for defrauded students.

- **Perkins Loan Program Extension Act (H.R. 2482) by Rep. Stefanik (R-NY):** Extend the Perkins loan program for two years.

- **POST GRAD Act (H.R. 2526) by Rep. Chu (D-CA):** Make graduate students eligible for federal Direct Subsidized Loans.

- **Protect Our Gold Star Families' Education Act (S.1125) by Sen. Kaine (D-VA):** Amend the Higher Education Act to provide Pell grants for the dependents of Iraq and Afghanistan veterans.

- **REAL Act (H.R. 254) by Rep. Danny K. Davis (D-IL):** Amend the Higher Education Act to eliminate the provision that prohibits Pell grant eligibility for individuals incarcerated in a federal or state penal institution and sex offenders following incarceration.
NEA POSITIONS ON BILLS

- **Stopping Abusive Student Loan Collection Practices in Bankruptcy Act (H.R. 137) by Rep. Conyers (D-MI):** Amend the federal bankruptcy code to allow an individual whose student loan debt is discharged due to undue hardship to recover court costs and attorney's fees.

- **Stop Taxing Death and Disability Act (S. 405/H.R. 1659) by Sen. Coons (D-DE) and Rep. Roskam (R-IL):** Exempt student loans from income taxes when the student dies or the borrower becomes disabled.

- **Student Loan Fairness Act (H.R. 1127) by Rep. Bass (D-CA):** Increase purchasing power, strengthen economic recovery, and restore fairness in financing higher education through student loan forgiveness, caps on interest rates on federal student loans, and refinancing opportunities for private borrowers.

- **Student Loan Refinancing Act (H.R. 1614) by Rep. Pocan (D-WI):** Allow students to refinance their federal student loans.

- **Student Loan Repayment Assistance Act (H.R. 108) by Rep. Brownley (D-CA):** Amend the Internal Revenue Code to exclude amounts paid by employers under student loan payment assistance programs from employees' gross income.

- **Tyler Clementi Higher Education Anti-Harassment Act (S. 954/H.R. 2151) by Sen. Murray (D-WA) and Rep. Pocan (D-WI):** Require institutions of higher education participating in Title IV programs to include a statement of policy on harassment in annual security reports.

**HUMAN & CIVIL RIGHTS**

- **Equality Act (S. 1006/H.R. 2282) by Sen. Merkley (D-OR) and Rep. DeSaulnier (D-CA):** Amend the Civil Rights Act to prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity in education, employment, housing, credit, and federal jury service.

**IMMIGRATION**

- **BRIDGE Act (S. 128/H.R. 496) by Sen. Graham (R-SC) and Rep. Coffman (R-CO):** Temporarily extend the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program for up to three years.

**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

- **National Memorial to Fallen Educators Act (S. 167) by Sen. Moran (R-KS):** Designate an existing memorial to fallen educators a national monument. Located at the National Teachers Hall of Fame in Emporia, Kansas, this memorial honors the more than 114 educators from 36 states who have lost their lives while performing their professional duties since the year 1764.

**RETIREMENT**

- **H.J. Res. 66 by Rep. Walberg (R-MI) and H.J. Res. 67 by Rep. Rooney (R-FL):** Block U.S. Department of Labor regulations that create safe harbors under which certain retirement savings arrangements, established by states or eligible political subdivisions, are not considered ERISA-covered employee benefit plans.

**RURAL EDUCATION**

- **Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act (S. 1027/H.R. 2340) by Sen. Hatch (R-UT) and Rep. McMorris Rodgers (R-WA):** Reauthorize program that supports schools and community services in 775 rural counties located near national forests in 41 states.
SCHOOL MODERNIZATION

✓ Rebuild America’s Schools Act (H.R. 2475) by Rep. Bobby Scott (D-VA): Create a $70 billion grant program and $30 billion tax credit bond program targeted at high-poverty schools with facilities that pose health and safety risks to students and staff.

SCHOOL SAFETY


✓ Firearms safety and gun violence prevention (S. 834/H.R. 1832) by Sen. Markey (D-MA) and Rep. Carolyn Maloney (D-NY): Authorize the appropriation of funds to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for research on firearms safety and gun violence prevention.

SOCIAL SECURITY


STUDENT SUPPORT

✓ Empowering Students Through Enhanced Financial Counseling Act (H.R. 1635) by Rep. Guthrie (R-KY): Improve financial counseling to help ensure that students have the information they need to make responsible decisions about financing their college education.


✓ Transition-to-Success Mentoring Act (H.R. 647) by Rep. Carson (D-IN): Amend ESEA to establish a mentoring program to help at-risk students make the transition from middle to high school.

TAXES

✓ Corporate EXIT Fairness Act (H.R. 1931) by Rep. Doggett (D-TX): Amend the Internal Revenue Code to discourage corporate inversions and impose taxes on unrepatriated earnings and unrecognized gains related to corporate expatriations.

✓ Middle Class Health Benefits Tax Repeal Act (S. 40/S. 58/H.R. 173) by Sen. Heller (R-NV) and Rep. Mike Kelly (R-PA): Amend the Internal Revenue Code to repeal the excise tax on high cost employer-sponsored health coverage scheduled to take effect in 2020.

✓ Stop Tax Haven Abuse Act (S. 851/H.R. 1932) by Sen. Whitehouse (D-OH) and Rep. Doggett (D-TX): Crack down on illegal tax evasion by closing loopholes that encourage companies to shift jobs and profits offshore.
NEA POSITIONS ON BILLS

VOUCHERS

× **CHOICE Act (S. 235/H.R. 691) by Sen. Scott (R-SC) and Rep. Rokita (R-IN):** Expand eligibility for the District of Columbia voucher program to students with disabilities and establish a pilot voucher program for military dependents.

× **Choices in Education Act (H.R. 610) by Rep. Steve King (R-IA):** Distribute federal funds for elementary and secondary education as vouchers for eligible students and repeal a rule on school nutrition standards.

× **Educational Opportunities Act (S. 148/H.R. 895) by Sen. Rubio (R-FL) and Rep. Rokita (R-IN):** Amend the Internal Revenue Code to provide tax credits for individuals and corporations (up to $100,000) for charitable contributions to organizations whose sole purpose is providing vouchers for low-income students.

× **Empowering Parents to Invest in Choice Act (H.R. 675) by Rep. McHenry (R-NC):** Amend the Internal Revenue Code to expand qualified tuition programs and increase the amount that can be contributed to Coverdell education savings accounts.

× **Enhancing Educational Opportunities for All Students Act (H.R. 716) by Rep. Messer (R-IN):** Amend ESEA to allocate grant funds to state-accredited private schools and the Internal Revenue Code to encourage the use of 529 plans and Coverdell education savings accounts.

× **SOAR Reauthorization Act (H.R. 1387) by Rep. Chaffetz (R-UT):** Reauthorize the Scholarships for Opportunity and Results Act, which provides vouchers for private and religious schools in the District of Columbia.

WORKERS’ RIGHTS

× **National Right-to-Work Act (S. 545/H.R. 785) by Sen. Paul (R-KY) and Rep. Steve King (R-IA):** Amend the National Labor Relations Act and the Railway Labor Act to allow employees to refrain from forming, joining, or assisting labor organizations.

× **Official Time Reform Act (H.R. 1364) by Rep. Hice (R-GA):** Deny pension credit for time spent on certain union activities to federal employees, including educators represented by the Federal Employee Association, an NEA affiliate for employees of schools run by the Department of Defense Education Authority.

✓ **Paycheck Fairness Act (S. 819/H.R. 1869) by Sen. Murray (D-WA) and Rep. DeLauro (D-CT):** Create incentives for employers to follow the Equal Pay Act, empower women to negotiate for equal pay, and strengthen federal outreach and enforcement efforts.

✓ **Raise the Wage Act (S. 1242/H.R. 15) by Sen. Sanders (I-VT) and Rep. Bobby Scott (D-VA):** Raise the federal minimum wage to $9.25 this year, increase it over the next seven years until it reaches $15 an hour in 2024, and then index it to inflation.

× **Working Families Flexibility Act (S. 801/H.R. 1180) by Sen. Lee (R-UT) and Rep. Roby (R-AL):** Allow employers to offer private-sector employees the choice of paid time off in lieu of cash wages for overtime hours worked—a pay cut without any guaranteed flexibility or time off.
NEA POSITIONS ON BILLS

114TH CONGRESS (JANUARY 2015-DECEMBER 2016)

Supported by NEA

Opposed by NEA

Neutral

AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

Supported by NEA

Forty Hours Is Full Time Act (S. 30) and Save American Workers Act (H.R. 30) by Sen. Collins (R-ME) and Rep. Young (R-IN), respectively: Amend the Internal Revenue Code to raise the threshold for “full-time employee” from 30 to 40 hours for purposes of the employer mandate to provide health care coverage.

Middle Class Health Benefits Tax Repeal Act (H.R. 2050) by Reps. Courtney (D-CT) and Titus (D-NV): Repeal the 40 percent excise tax on the cost of employer-sponsored health coverage above certain amounts—generally $10,200 for individuals and $27,500 for family coverage—scheduled to take effect in 2018. (The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2016 pushed back introduction of the excise tax from 2018 to 2020.)

Protecting Affordable Coverage for Employees Act (H.R. 1624) by Reps. Guthrie (R-KY) and Cardenas (D-CA): Amend the Affordable Care Act to allow states to determine the small group market for employers of 51 to 100 people.


SCHOOL Act (H.R. 769) by Rep. Messer (R-IN): Amend the Internal Revenue Code to exclude schools, including institutions of higher education, from the employer mandate.

Opposed by NEA

Middle Class Health Benefits Tax Repeal Act (H.R. 2050) by Reps. Courtney (D-CT) and Titus (D-NV): Repeal the 40 percent excise tax on the cost of employer-sponsored health coverage above certain amounts—generally $10,200 for individuals and $27,500 for family coverage—scheduled to take effect in 2018. (The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2016 pushed back introduction of the excise tax from 2018 to 2020.)

SCHOOL Act (H.R. 769) by Rep. Messer (R-IN): Amend the Internal Revenue Code to exclude schools, including institutions of higher education, from the employer mandate.

ASSESSMENT

Supported by NEA

All Students Count Act (S. 389/H.R. 717) by Sen. Hirono (D-HI) and Rep. Honda (D-CA): Amend ESEA to require state report cards to use the same racial groups as the decennial census of population.

Career Ready Act (S. 478) by Sen. Kaine (D-VA): Amend ESEA to allow states to use career readiness indicators in adequate yearly progress (AYP) determinations.

Defending State Authority Over Education Act (H.R. 755) by Rep. Roby (R-AL): Amend ESEA to prohibit influencing, incentivizing, or coercing a state to participate in a partnership with another state to develop academic standards or assessments.

EMPOWER Act (H.R. 2382) by Reps. Reed (R-NY) and DeLauro (D-CT): Amend ESEA to authorize parents to have their children opt out of certain assessments.

Empowering Parents and Students through Information Act (S. 528) by Sen. Casey (D-PA): Amend ESEA to require the parents of students with the most significant cognitive disabilities to be involved in decisions about alternative academic achievement standards.
**NEA POSITIONS ON BILLS**

**Every Child Counts Act (S. 516) by Sen. Murphy (D-CT):** Amend ESEA to allow states to establish alternate academic standards for up to one percent of the students with the most significant cognitive delays.

**Local Control of Education Act (S. 73/H.R. 524) by Sen. Vitter (R-LA) and Rep. Joe Wilson (R-SC):** Amend ESEA to prohibit mandating, incentivizing, or conditioning federal support on adoption of the Common Core, other specific academic standards, or related assessments.

**Local Leadership in Education Act (S. 144) by Sen. Crapo (R-ID):** Amend ESEA to prohibit the federal government from encouraging states to adopt specific academic standards, curricula, programs of instruction, or related assessments.

**LOCAL Level Act (S. 182) by Sen. Roberts (R-KS):** Amend ESEA to prohibit the federal government from encouraging states to adopt the Common Core or other specific academic standards, curricula, programs of instruction, or related assessments.

**SMART Act (S. 197/H.R. 408) by Sen. Baldwin (D-WI) and Rep. Bonamici (D-OR):** Amend ESEA to require states to use assessment grants to develop, administer, and enhance assessments; align them with academic content standards; and eliminate duplicative tests.

**Student Testing Improvement and Accountability Act (S. 1025/H.R. 452) by Sen. Tester (D-MT) and Reps. Gibson (R-NY) and Sinema (D-AZ):** Amend ESEA to reduce the number of federally-mandated tests in reading and math from 14 to 6 to give teachers more one-on-one time with students, especially those most in need of extra time and help.

**TEST Act (H.R. 3204) by Rep. Israel (D-NY):** Amend ESEA to reduce testing requirements.

**CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION**

**American Manufacturing Jobs for Students Act (H.R. 645) by Rep. Brownley (D-CA):** Amend ESEA to provide career education pathways in manufacturing.

**BUILD Career and Technical Education Act (S. 1166/H.R. 2186) by Sen. Merkley (D-OR) and Rep. Schrader (D-OR):** Establish a pilot grant program for exploration of career and technical education in middle and high schools.

**Computer Science Career Education Act (S. 1184/H.R. 2056) by Sen. Gillibrand (D-NY) and Rep. Cardenas (D-CA):** Establish a grant program to promote secondary and postsecondary computer science career education programs.

**Counseling for Career Choice Act (H.R. 1079) by Rep. Langevin (D-RI):** Authorize competitive grants to states for comprehensive school counseling programs that provide students with effective postsecondary education planning and career guidance.

**Middle School STEP Act (S. 1609/H.R. 3346) by Sen. Kaine (D-VA) and Rep. Graham (D-FL):** Provide support for development of middle school career exploration programs linked to career and technical education programs of study.

**Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act (H.R. 5587) by Rep. Glenn Thompson (R-PA):** Update career and technical education for schools and students across the country.

**Youth Access to American Jobs Act (H.R. 2224) by Rep. Larsen (D-WA):** Establish a pilot program to promote apprenticeships and other job training programs.
NEA POSITIONS ON BILLS

CHARTER SCHOOLS


CHILDREN’S HEALTH

✓ ALLERGY Act (H.R. 4691) by Rep. Cartwright (D-PA): Amend ESEA to require local educational agencies to implement policies on bullying related to allergies.


✓ Breath of Fresh Air Act (H.R. 72) by Rep. Jackson Lee (D-TX): Amend ESEA to establish a grant program for purchasing nebulizers and training school staff to use them.


✗ Improving Child Nutrition and Education Act (H.R. 5003) by Rep. Rokita (R-IN): Reauthorize and make changes in child nutrition programs that could cause students to go hungry, limit access to school meals, and add administrative burdens just as ESSA implementation begins.

✓ Lead-free Students Act (H.R. 6525) by Rep. Watson Coleman (D-NJ): Amend ESEA to require students to undergo lead screenings.

✓ Mental Health in Schools Act (H.R. 1211) by Rep. Napolitano (D-CA): Amend the Public Health Service Act to expand access to comprehensive, school-based mental health programs.

✓ Promoting Health as Youth Skills in Classrooms and Life Act (S. 418) by Sen. Udall (D-NM): Amend ESEA to define health and physical education as core academic subjects.

✓ Protecting Student Athletes from Concussions Act (S. 988/H.R. 2062) by Sen. Durbin (D-IL) and Rep. DeSaulnier (D-CA): Require states to ensure that local educational agencies fulfill requirements for preventing, managing, and treating concussions incurred during K-12 sports.

✓ SAFE Play Act (S. 436/H.R. 829) by Sen. Menendez (D-NJ) and Rep. Capps (D-CA): Amend ESEA to require state educational agencies to develop and implement plans for preventing concussions.

✓ School Asthma Management Plan Act (S. 1065) by Sen. Gillibrand (D-NY): Amend ESEA to provide grants for developing asthma management plans and purchasing asthma supplies.

✓ SOS Act (H.R. 4716) by Rep. Beatty (D-OH): Amend ESEA to support teacher and school professional training on awareness of student mental health conditions and suicide prevention efforts.

✓ Student Support Act (H.R. 2375) by Rep. Barbara Lee (D-CA): Amend ESEA to award grants to help states hire additional school-based mental health and student service providers.

✓ ZZZ’s to A’s Act (H.R. 1306) by Rep. Lofgren (D-CA): Conduct a study—and make recommendations to Congress—on the relationship between school starting times and adolescent health.
COLLEGE AFFORDABILITY

- **Adjunct Faculty Loan Fairness Act (S. 1556) by Sen. Durbin (D-IL):** Amend the Higher Education Act to allow adjunct faculty members to qualify for public service loan forgiveness.

- **America’s College Promise Act (S. 1716/H.R. 2962) by Sen. Baldwin (D-WI) and Rep. Bobby Scott (D-VA):** Provide matching grants to help states provide two years of free community college.

- **Bank on Students Emergency Loan Refinancing Act (S. 793/H.R. 1434) by Sen. Warren (D-MA) and Rep. Courtney (D-CT):** Allow students who took out loans before July 1, 2013, to refinance and pay the same low rates as new borrowers.

- **College for All Act (S. 1373) by Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-VT):** Provide $47 billion per year to states to eliminate undergraduate tuition and fees at public colleges and universities, and allow borrowers to refinance their loans based on the interest rates for current students.

- **Discharge Student Loans in Bankruptcy Act (H.R. 449) by Rep. Delaney (D-MD):** Amend the federal bankruptcy code to allow loans or obligations to repay funds received as an educational benefit, scholarship, or stipend to be discharged in bankruptcy.

- **Fairness for Struggling Students Act (S.729/H.R.1131) by Sen. Durbin (D-IL) and Rep. McDermott (D-WA):** Revise federal bankruptcy law to allow certain educational loans to be discharged in bankruptcy.

- **In the Red Act (S. 2677) by Sen. Baldwin (D-WI):** Make college more affordable by reducing student debt, allowing students to refinance loans at the same low rates as new borrowers, and providing two years of free community college.

- **Middle Class CHANCE Act (S. 1998) by Sens. Hirono (D-HI) and Heinrich (D-NM):** Provide Pell Grants year-round and index them to inflation.

- **Private Student Loan Bankruptcy Fairness Act (H.R. 1674) by Rep. Cohen (D-TN):** Restore fairness in student lending by dismantling the 2005 bankruptcy code changes and treating privately issued student loans like other private debt in bankruptcy.

- **Protect Student Borrowers Act (S. 1102) by Sen. Jack Reed (D-RI):** Require institutions of higher education participating in the William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan program to accept specified risk-sharing requirements.

- **Student Loan Borrower Bill of Rights (S. 840) by Sen. Durbin (D-IL):** Amend the Truth in Lending Act to require postsecondary education lenders to disclose information to borrowers at least 30 days before the first fully amortized payment on a loan is due.

- **Student Loan Borrowers’ Bill of Rights Act (H.R. 1352) by Rep. Frederica Wilson (D-FL):** Establish student loan borrowers’ rights to basic consumer protections, reasonable and flexible repayment options, access to earned credentials, and effective loan cancellation in exchange for public service.

- **Student Loan Interest Deduction Act (H.R. 509) by Rep. Rangel (D-NY):** Amend the Internal Revenue Code to increase the maximum tax deduction for interest paid on qualified education loans to $5,000 ($10,000 for married couples filing a joint tax return).

- **Student Loan Refinancing Act (H.R. 649) by Rep. Pocan (D-WI):** Allow students to refinance their federal student loans.
**NEA POSITIONS ON BILLS**

**Student Loan Repayment Assistance Act (H.R. 1713) by Rep. Peters (D-CA):** Amend the Internal Revenue Code to exclude amounts paid by employers under student loan payment assistance programs from employees' gross income.

**EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION**

**Continuum of Learning Act (S. 643) by Sen. Casey (D-PA):** Amend ESEA to coordinate school improvement and professional development activities with early childhood development and education programs.

**EARLY Act (H.R. 2528) by Rep. Susan Davis (D-CA):** Award competitive grants to states to pay a portion of the federal share of carrying out full-day pre-K programs.

**PRE-K Act (S. 317/H.R. 587) by Sen. Hirono (D-HI) and Rep. Pocan (D-WI):** Amend ESEA to authorize matching grants to states to enhance or improve preschool programs.

**Pre-K for USA Act (H.R. 4042) by Rep. Castro (D-TX):** Provide grants for high quality pre-K programs.

**Prepare All Kids Act (S. 645/H.R. 6264) by Sen. Casey (D-PA) and Rep. Carolyn Maloney (D-NY):** Create an incentive fund to establish, enhance, or expand high quality, full-day pre-K programs for children ages 3 to 5.

**Prescribe a Book Act (S. 251/H.R. 523) by Sen. Reed (D-RI) and Rep. McGovern (D-MA):** Amend ESEA to authorize matching grants for early literacy programs in which health care providers encourage parents to read aloud to their children.

**Strong Start for America's Children Act (S. 1380/H.R. 2411) by Sen. Murray (D-WA) and Rep. Hanna (R-NY):** Establish a new federal-state partnership to accelerate progress already underway and help fund high quality pre-K for children from low- and moderate-income families.

**Supporting Early Learning Act (H.R. 374) by Rep. Himes (D-CT):** Establish an Early Learning Challenge Fund to support state efforts to build and strengthen high quality early learning systems and programs.

**Total Learning Act (H.R. 375) by Rep. Himes (D-CT):** Award competitive grants to full-service community schools or partnerships to implement innovative early learning curricula in high-need communities.

**Universal Prekindergarten and Early Childhood Education Act (H.R. 3604) by Rep. Norton (D-DC):** Authorize competitive grants to states to establish or expand full-day pre-K programs.

**EDUCATION FUNDING**

**A PLUS Act (S. 2310/H.R. 3421) by Sen. Daines (R-MT) and Rep. Walker (R-NC):** Allow a state to submit a declaration of intent to the secretary of education to combine certain funds to improve the academic achievement of students.

**Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015 (H.R. 1314) by Rep. Meehan (R-PA):** Two-year budget deal that became law in November 2015. Provides an additional $80 billion in discretionary funding in fiscal years 2016 and 2017, split evenly between defense and non-defense programs like education; extends the debt ceiling; and dramatically reduces—from $54 to $19 per month—an increase in Medicare premiums that affects roughly 1 in 3 beneficiaries, including educators.

**Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2016/tax extenders package (H.R. 2029) by Rep. Dent (R-PA):** Fiscal year 2016 omnibus appropriations bill that prioritizes education programs targeted to the students most in need.
NEA POSITIONS ON BILLS

✓ **Fiscal Fairness Act (H.R. 1071) by Rep. Fattah (D-PA):** Amend ESEA to require per pupil expenditures in schools receiving school improvement funds to be at least 97 percent of those in other schools in the district.

✗ **GOP budget resolution for fiscal year 2017 (H. Con. Res. 125) by Rep. Tom Price (R-GA):** Slash investments in our nation's future without adding a penny in revenue from corporations or the wealthiest among us.

✗ **GOP budget resolutions for fiscal year 2016 (S. Con. Res. 11/H. Con Res. 27) by Sen. Enzi (R-WY) and Rep. Tom Price (R-GA):** Slash investments in our nation's future without adding a penny in revenue from corporations or the wealthiest among us.

✓ **IDEA Full Funding Act (H.R. 551) by Reps. Van Hollen (D-MD), McKinley (R-WV), Walz (D-MN), Gibson (R-NY), Huffman (D-CA), and Reichert (R-WA):** Require regular increases in IDEA spending to fulfill the federal government's promise to pay 40 percent of the average per pupil expenditure for special education.

✓ **Keep Our PACT Act (H.R. 3581) by Rep. Van Hollen (D-MD):** Require full funding of ESEA Title I, Part A and IDEA.

✗ **Local Education Authority Returns Now Act (H.R. 121) by Rep. Garrett (R-NJ):** Provide tax credits for individual taxpayers living in states that opt out of federal K-12 education grant programs.

✓ **Local Taxpayer Relief Act (S. 658) by Sen. Thune (R-SD):** Reauthorize ESEA's impact aid program, which compensates local educational agencies for the financial burden of federal activities affecting their school districts.

✗ **Restoration of Parental Rights and State Sovereignty Act (H.R. 106) by Rep. Culberson (R-TX):** Prohibit the secretary of education from setting requirements or conditions for ESEA grant programs.

EDUCATION SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS

✓ **Classroom paraprofessionals (H.R. 736) by Rep. Serrano (D-NY):** Help improve student achievement by authorizing $1 billion for each of fiscal years 2014 through 2018 to recruit, hire, and train 100,000 new classroom paraeducators.

✓ **Improving School Nutrition Training Act (H.R. 3817) by Reps. Pocan (D-WI) and Katko (R-NY):** Ensure that required training for food service professionals is conducted primarily during paid working hours and that it incorporates hands-on techniques.

✓ **Recognizing Achievement in Classified School Employees Act (S. 2653/H.R. 1519) by Sen. Murray (D-WA) and Rep. Titus (D-NV):** Establish an awards program for education support professionals who provide exemplary service to pre-K through postsecondary students.

ENGLISH-LANGUAGE LEARNERS

✓ **Families Learning and Understanding English Together Act (H.R. 4643) by Rep. Grijalva (D-AZ):** Improve the literacy and English skills of people with limited proficiency in English.


ESEA REAUTHORIZATION

✓ **Every Child Achieves Act (S. 1177) by Sen. Alexander (R-TN):** After being amended, improved, passed unanimously by the Senate HELP Committee, and then the full Senate, this bill was conferenced with H.R. 5. The NEA-supported conference agreement, signed into law as the Every Student Succeeds Act, includes provisions of several individual bills that appear elsewhere on this list, in some cases with modifications.
NEA POSITIONS ON BILLS

**Student Success Act (H.R. 5) by Rep. Kline (R-MN):** Shortcomings included insufficient support for the historical federal role of targeting resources to marginalized student populations to help ensure equal opportunity for all students. After being amended and improved by both the House Education and the Workforce Committee and the full House of Representatives, H.R. 5 was conferenced with S. 1177 and became law, as noted above.

**FAMILY & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

- **DIPLOMA Act (H.R. 495) by Rep. Chu (D-CA):** Authorize grants to states to encourage and engage disadvantaged youth, and strengthen their families and communities.
- **Family Engagement in Education Act (S. 622/H.R. 1194) by Sen. Reed (D-RI) and Rep. Glenn Thompson (R-PA):** Amend ESEA to allow school improvement funds to be used for family engagement plans.
- **Full-Service Community Schools Act (S. 1787) by Sen. Brown (D-OH):** Award matching grants to help elementary and secondary schools function as full-service community schools.
- **Promise Neighborhoods Authorization Act (S. 514/H.R. 2882) by Sen. Murphy (D-CT) and Rep. Payne (D-NJ):** Award grants for supports and services that engage community partners in improving the academic achievement, health and social development, and college and career readiness of children living in distressed neighborhoods with under-performing schools.
- **Ready-to-Compete Act (H.R. 966) by Rep. Yarmuth (D-KY):** Amend ESEA to authorize grants to public telecommunications entities to coordinate the development, production, and distribution of innovative multi-platform programming for children, parents, educators, and caregivers.
- **SUCCESS Act (S. 412) by Sen. Mikulski (D-MD):** Amend ESEA to allow school improvement funds to be used to develop and implement family engagement plans.
- **Supporting Community Schools Act (H.R. 718) by Rep. Honda (D-CA):** Amend ESEA to authorize districts to transform struggling schools into community schools that partner with community-based entities, public and private, to address students' needs while also serving as community centers.
- **Teachers and Parents at the Table Act (H.R. 6472) by Rep. Kathleen Rice (D-NY):** Amend ESEA to establish a volunteer teacher advisory committee and volunteer parents and families advisory committee.

**HIGHER EDUCATION**

- **Accessing Higher Education Opportunities Act (H.R. 5529) by Reps. Heck (R-NV) and Hinojosa (D-TX):** Help students at Hispanic-serving institutions pursue careers in medicine, dentistry, and other health care professions.
- **Empowering Students Through Enhanced Financial Counseling Act (H.R. 3179) Reps. Guthrie (R-KY) and Bonamici (D-OR):** Promote financial literacy by enhancing counseling for recipients of federal financial aid.
- **Fast Track to College Act (H.R. 937) by Rep. Hinojosa (D-TX):** Authorize matching grants for dual enrollment programs that allow students to earn credits simultaneously toward a high-school diploma and postsecondary degree.
- **HBCU Capital Financing Improvement Act (H.R. 5530) by Reps. Adams (D-NC) and Byrne (R-AL):** Improve access to—and oversight of—an existing program to improve the campuses of Historically Black Colleges and Universities.
NEA POSITIONS ON BILLS

**IN-STATE for Dreamers Act (S. 796/H.R. 1507) by Sen. Murray (D-WA) and Rep. Polis (D-CO):** Establish a grant program to supplement need-based financial aid in states that offer in-state tuition and financial aid to Dreamer students.

**PREP Act (H.R. 5702) by Rep. Takano (D-CA):** Amend the Higher Education Act to make students simultaneously enrolled in a secondary school and public institution of higher education eligible for Pell Grants.

**Proprietary Education Oversight Coordination Improvement Act (S. 396/H.R. 747) by Sen. Durbin (D-IL) and Rep. Cummings (D-MD):** Establish the proprietary education oversight coordination committee.

**Simplifying the Application for Student Aid Act (H.R. 5528) by Reps. Heck (R-NV) and Polis (D-CO):** Reform the federal student aid process to help students make timely financial decisions about their education and better prepare for college.

**Strengthening Transparency in Higher Education Act (H.R. 3178) by Reps. Foxx (R-NC) and Sablan (D-MP):** Help students gain access to information they need to make informed decisions about where to pursue their education.

**Tyler Clementi Higher Education Anti-Harassment Act (S. 773/H.R. 1421) by Sen. Murray (D-WA) and Rep. Pocan (D-WI):** Require institutions of higher education participating in Title IV programs to include a statement of policy on harassment in annual security reports.

**HUMAN & CIVIL RIGHTS**

**Business Supply Chain Transparency on Trafficking and Slavery Act (S. 1968/H.R. 3226) by Sen. Blumenthal (D-CT) and Rep. Carolyn Maloney (D-NY):** Amend the Securities Exchange Act to require issuers of registered securities with annual global receipts of more than $100 million to disclose in their annual reports any measures taken to identify and address conditions of forced labor, slavery, human trafficking, and the worst forms of child labor.

**Campaign Finance Reform (S.J. Res. 5/H.J. Res. 22) by Sen. Udall (D-NM) and Rep. Deutch (D-FL):** Amend the U.S. Constitution to allow Congress to regulate the amount of money raised for—and spent on—federal political campaigns, and states to regulate campaign spending at their level.

**Education for All Act (S. 3256/H.R. 4481) by Sen. Durbin (D-IL) and Reps. Lowey (D-NY) and Reichert (D-WA):** Ensure access to quality education for children around the world.

**Equality Act (S. 1858/H.R. 3185) by Sen. Merkley (D-OR) and Rep. Cicilline (D-RI):** Amend the Civil Rights Act to prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity in education, employment, housing, credit, and federal jury service.

**Government by the People Act (H.R. 20) by Rep. Sarbanes (D-MD):** Amend the Internal Revenue Code to allow a refundable tax credit for small campaign contributions, create a fund to match small contributions, and increase the power of ordinary citizens instead of Super PACs.

**New American Success Act (H.R. 3201) by Rep. Cardenas (D-CA):** Provide grants to promote the civic, linguistic, and economic integration of immigrants and their young children into the United States.

**Student Non-Discrimination Act (S. 439/H.R. 846) by Sen. Franken (D-MN) and Rep. Polis (D-CO):** Protect students from school-based sexual orientation and gender identity discrimination, recognize bullying and harassment as discrimination, and provide remedies and incentives to prevent them.

**Voter Empowerment Act (H.R. 12) by Rep. Lewis (D-GA):** Open access to the ballot box by modernizing and simplifying the voting process, ensuring its integrity, and protecting the accountability of results.
NEA POSITIONS ON BILLS

IMMIGRATION


✗ Stop Sanctuary Cities Act (S. 1814) by Sens. Vitter (R-LA), Flake (R-AZ), and McCain (R-AZ): Require state and local law enforcement agencies to comply with all Department of Homeland Security immigration detainer requests.

MEDICARE & MEDICAID

✗ Common Sense Savings Act (H.R. 4725) by Rep. Pitts (R-PA): Make $25 billion in cuts over 10 years targeted to the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) and Medicaid.

✓ Protecting Medicare Beneficiaries Act (S. 2148) by Sen. Wyden (D-OR) and Medicare Premium Fairness Act (H.R. 3696) by Rep. Titus (D-NV), respectively: Extend to all Medicare beneficiaries the "hold harmless" provision that protects against Part B cost hikes when there is no Social Security cost-of-living adjustment (COLA), as is the case in 2016. (The Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015 reduced the potential increase in Part B premiums from $54 to $19 per month.)

NATIVE AMERICANS

✓ American Indian Teacher Loan Forgiveness Act (H.R. 386) by Rep. Ruiz (D-CA): Provide up to $17,500 of federal loan forgiveness for members of Indian tribes who are full-time teachers of Indian students for five consecutive years.

✓ Building upon Unique Indian Learning and Development Act (S. 410/H.R. 1082) by Sen. Udall (D-NM) and Rep. Lujan (D-NM): Strengthen support for Native American students.

✓ Indian education and outlying areas (H.R. 851) by Rep. Sablan (D-MP): Amend ESEA to increase the share of school improvement funds for Indian education and outlying areas.


✓ Native Language Immersion Student Achievement Act (S. 1419) by Sen. Tester (D-MT): Establish a Native American language grant program to promote academic achievement among American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian children.

✓ Tribal Early Childhood, Education, and Related Services Integration Act (S. 2304) by Sen. Tester (D-MT): Provide for tribal demonstration projects that integrate early childhood development and education, including Native American language and culture.

✓ SAFETY Act (S. 2468) by Sen. Tester (D-MT): Require the secretary of the interior to carry out a demonstration program that gives eligible Indian tribes grants to build tribal schools.
NEA POSITIONS ON BILLS

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- **Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning Act (S. 897/H.R. 850)** by Sen. Blumenthal (D-CT) and Rep. Tim Ryan (D-OH): Amend ESEA to include teacher and principal training in practices that address students’ social and emotional needs.

- **BEST Act (S. 882/H.R. 1751)** by Sen. Casey (D-PA) and Rep. Honda (D-CA): Amend ESEA to authorize grants to elevate the teaching profession, support educators, improve student achievement, and ensure equity.

- **Diverse Teachers Recruitment Act (H.R. 833)** by Rep. Susan Davis (D-CA): Amend ESEA to authorize competitive matching grants to recruit, train, and retain individuals from under-represented groups as elementary and secondary school teachers.

- **Empowering Educators to Prevent Trafficking Act (H.R. 5061)** by Rep. Susan Davis (D-CA): Authorize the Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention to award grants to local educational agencies to establish, expand, and support programs to train school staff to recognize and respond to signs of labor and sex trafficking.

- **Great Teaching and Leading for Great Schools Act (H.R. 848)** by Rep. Polis (D-CO): Amend ESEA to enhance professional development and educators’ effectiveness.

- **Helping Schools Protect Our Children Act (S. 1369/H.R. 1827)** by Sen. Feinstein (D-CA) and Rep. Takano (D-CA): Amend ESEA to allow funds to be used for training school personnel to recognize sexual abuse in children.

- **Innovations to Recruit and Retain Excellent Teachers Act (H.R. 6236)** by Rep. Susan Davis (D-CA): Elevate the teaching profession through systemic innovations in recruitment and retention to ensure that all students, especially those from low-income families, have excellent, well-prepared, and well-supported teachers.

- **Interstate Teaching Mobility Act (H.R. 5357)** by Rep. Carson (D-IN): Amend ESEA to authorize an interstate teaching application program.

- **Keep Teachers Teaching Act (H.R. 2321)** by Rep. David Price (D-NC): Amend ESEA to provide grants for innovative programs to retain teachers.

- **National Memorial to Fallen Educators Act (S. 2061/H.R. 5582)** by Sen. Moran (R-KS) and Rep. Huelskamp (R-KS): Designate an existing memorial to fallen educators a national monument. Located at the National Teachers Hall of Fame in Emporia, Kansas, this memorial honors the more than 114 educators from 36 states who have lost their lives while performing their professional duties since the year 1764.

- **No Child Left Inside Act (S. 492/H.R. 882)** by Sen. Reed (D-RI) and Rep. Sarbanes (D-MD): Amend ESEA to authorize new funding for states to provide high quality environmental instruction and professional development for teachers.


- **Teach to Lead Act (H.R. 6464)** by Rep. Susan Davis (D-CA): Award grants for teacher-led projects to improve academic growth in elementary and secondary schools.
RURAL EDUCATION

✔ Investing in Innovation for Education Act (S. 605/H.R. 847) by Sen. Bennet (D-CO) and Rep. Polis (D-CO): Amend ESEA to award competitive grants for innovative efforts to improve teaching and learning, with at least 25 percent of the funds going to rural areas.

✔ REST Act (S. 2190) by Sen. Tester (D-MT): Amend ESEA and the Higher Education Act to provide professional development, scholarships, and loan forgiveness for rural educators.

✔ RURAL Act (H.R. 3369) by Rep. Loebsack (D-IA): Establish an office of rural education policy within the U.S. Department of Education and modify federal law in other ways to improve rural schools.

SCHOOL MODERNIZATION


✔ INSPIRES Act (S. 1050) by Sen. Schatz (D-HI): Amend ESEA to establish a program to modernize, renovate, and repair career and technical education facilities.

✔ Rebuilding America’s Schools Act (S. 1753/H.R. 3046) by Sen. Brown (D-OH) and Rep. Rangel (D-NY): Amend the Internal Revenue Code to modify and permanently extend Qualified Zone Academy Bonds (QZABs). (The QZAB program was renewed by the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2016/tax extenders package passed in December 2015.)

✔ School Building Fairness Act (S. 1505) by Sen. Schatz (D-HI): Amend ESEA to provide grants to repair, renovate, and construct elementary and secondary schools.

✔ Technology Enabled Education Innovation Partnership Act (H.R. 566) by Rep. Honda (D-CA): Authorize grants to eligible partnerships for innovative, technology-enabled education programs.

SCHOOL SAFETY

✔ Amend the Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act (H.R. 3331) by Rep. Danny K. Davis (D-IL): Require states to collect and report data on programs to prevent bullying and harassment.

✔ Bree’s Law (S. 3185/H.R. 6090) by Sen. Murkowski (R-AK) and Rep. Young (R-AK): Identify ESEA section 4108(5)(C)(iv) as “Bree’s Law” (supports programs to improve safety by recognizing coercion, violence, or abuse).

✔ Child Sexual Abuse Awareness and Prevention Act (S. 1665/H.R. 3067) by Sen. Gillibrand (D-NY) and Rep. Clark (D-MA): Amend ESEA to authorize local educational agencies and schools to carry out programs and activities to heighten awareness of—and prevent—sexual abuse of children.


NEA POSITIONS ON BILLS

✓ Safe Schools Improvement Act (S. 311/H.R. 2902) by Sen. Casey (D-PA) and Rep. Sanchez (D-CA): Amend ESEA to require policies to prevent bullying, harassment, and other conduct that limits students’ participation in school programs or creates a hostile environment.

✓ Securing Our Schools Act (H.R. 5787) by Rep. Graham (D-FL): Provide grants to local educational agencies for devices used to notify officials of emergencies.

SOCIAL SECURITY

Equal Treatment of Public Servants Act (H.R. 711) by Rep. Kevin Brady (R-TX): Address inequities associated with the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP), but not the Government Pension Offset (GPO). Additional concerns include the impact on people not vested in public pension plans, people with 30 years of Social Security-covered earnings, and “overpayments” to some Social Security beneficiaries. NEA has not taken a position on this bill.


✓ Social Security Fairness Act (S. 1651/H.R. 973) by Sens. Brown (D-OH) and Collins (R-ME) and Reps. Rodney Davis (R-IL) and Schiff (D-CA): Fully repeal the Government Pension Offset (GPO) and Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP).

STEM

✓ 21st Century STEM for Girls and Under-Represented Minorities Act (H.R. 2773) by Rep. Beatty (D-OH): Amend ESEA to provide grants to local educational agencies to encourage girls and under-represented minorities to enter STEM fields.

✓ Community STEM Learning Act (H.R. 2155) by Rep. Fudge (D-OH): Amend provisions of ESEA related to grants for science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education programs.

✓ Computer Science Education and Jobs Act (S. 671) by Sen. Casey (D-PA): Amend ESEA grant programs, reporting requirements, and definitions (including “core academic subject”) to include computer science.

✓ Computer Science for All Act (H.R. 6095) by Rep. Barbara Lee (D-CA): Increase pre-K through grade 12 access to computer science education.

✓ Computer Science in STEM Act (H.R. 2057) by Rep. Cardenas (D-CA): Amend ESEA to award grants to states for the development of comprehensive plans to strengthen computer science education in elementary and secondary schools.

✓ Early STEM Achievement Act (H.R. 6188) by Rep. Kuster (D-NH): Carry out a grant program for early childhood STEM activities.

✓ Educating Tomorrow's Engineers Act (S. 1185/H.R. 823) by Sen. Gillibrand (D-NY) and Rep. Tonko (D-NY): Amend ESEA to require states to include engineering in academic standards and science assessments.

✓ GIRLS STEM Act (H.R. 2762) by Rep. McNerney (D-CA): Amend ESEA to authorize grants to encourage female students to enter STEM fields.
NEA POSITIONS ON BILLS

✔ Innovate America Act (S. 894/H.R. 3959) by Sen. Klobuchar (D-MN) and Rep. Cartwright (D-PA): Provide competitive grants to state educational agencies to expand the number of STEM secondary schools from about 100 to 200.

✔ Innovation Inspiration School Grant Program Act (S. 442) by Sen. Shaheen (D-NH): Authorize competitive matching grants to promote STEM in secondary schools and broaden access to STEM careers.

✔ Partnerships for Progress and Prosperity (P3) Act (H.R. 6203) by Rep. Foster (D-IL): Carry out a STEM grant program.

✔ STEM Education for the Global Economy Act (S. 867) by Sen. Merkley (D-OR): Improve student academic achievement in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

✔ STEM Gateways Act (H.R. 840/S. 1183) by Sen. Gillibrand (D-NY) and Rep. Kennedy (D-MA): Authorize competitive grants to schools to promote STEM engagement and success among women and girls, under-represented minorities, and individuals from all economic backgrounds.


✔ STEM 2 Act (S. 419/H.R. 1081) by Sen. Udall (D-NM) and Rep. Lujan (D-NM): Authorize competitive planning grants for the development of state or tribal networks to coordinate STEM education efforts.

✔ Stepping Up to STEM Education Act (H.R. 565) by Rep. Honda (D-CA): Establish an office of STEM education within the U.S. Department of Education.

STUDENT LEARNING


✔ Achievement through Technology and Innovation Reauthorization Act (H.R. 1004) by Rep. Roybal-Allard (D-CA): Amend ESEA to require states to develop academic content and achievement standards that ensure students are technologically literate by grade 8.

✔ Afterschool and Workforce Readiness Act (S. 899) by Sen. Baldwin (D-WI): Amend ESEA to focus on career readiness.

✔ Afterschool for America’s Children Act (S. 308/H.R. 1042) by Sen. Boxer (D-CA) and Rep. Kildee (D-MI): Amend the 21st Century Community Learning Centers program to provide afterschool activities aligned with academic instruction during the school day for students, and opportunities for meaningful engagement in their children’s education for families.

✗ All-Year Schools Support Act (S. 325) by Sen. Kirk (R-IL): Amend ESEA to carry out a pilot program to establish or expand year-round programs at elementary and secondary schools. (NEA opposes this version of the bill because it does not include a construction clause protecting employees’ rights or an evaluation component.)

✗ Amend ESEA to ensure state control over academic standards (H.R. 2803) by Rep. Zeldin (R-NY): Allow states to withdraw from the Common Core, any other academic standards common to a significant number of states, or assessments tied to such standards.

✔ Broadening Opportunities through Education Act (H.R. 2371) by Rep. Edwards (D-MD): Award grants to states that make school attendance compulsory through age 17.
Core Opportunity Resources for Equity and Excellence Act (S. 37/H.R. 193) by Sen. Reed (D-RI) and Rep. Fudge (D-OH): Amend ESEA to require states to adopt student achievement standards that lead to college and career readiness, and to provide information about students’ access to core resources in annual state report cards.


Equal Access to Quality Education Act (H.R. 2149) by Rep. Chu (D-CA): Establish a grant program to ensure that students in high-need schools have equal access to a quality education delivered by an effective, diverse workforce.

Equity and Excellence in American Education Act (H.R. 4013) by Rep. Honda (D-CA): Create a system that ensures every child—regardless of race, ethnicity, social class, or state of residence—can receive a high quality, academically rigorous education in a local public school.

Financial Literacy for Students Act (H.R. 346) by Rep. Cartwright (D-PA): Amend ESEA to authorize grants to integrate financial literacy education into middle and secondary schools, and provide training in financial literacy for teachers.

LEARN Act (H.R. 858) by Rep. Yarmuth (D-KY): Authorize grants for plans to improve children's literacy from birth through grade 12.


Prayer in schools (H.R. 5074) by Rep. Ellmers (R-NC): Deny federal funds to state and local educational agencies that prevent participation in constitutional prayer in schools.


Simon Wiesenthal Holocaust Education Assistance Act (H.R. 2545) by Rep. Carolyn Maloney (D-NY): Award grants to educational organizations to carry out educational programs about the Holocaust.

SKILLS Act (S. 312/H.R. 1874) by Sen. Reed (D-RI) and Rep. Grijalva (D-AZ): Amend ESEA to strengthen provisions related to school libraries and librarians.

Strengthen and Unite Communities with Civics Education and English Development Act (H.R. 2794) by Rep. Honda (D-CA): Strengthen and unite communities through English literacy and civics education.

Student Bill of Rights (H.R. 1070) by Rep. Fattah (D-PA): Determine annually whether each state's public school system provides all students with the educational resources they need to succeed academically and in life.

TALENT Act (S. 363/H.R. 2960) by Sen. Grassley (R-IA) and Rep. Polis (D-CO): Amend ESEA to require states to recognize and assist advanced, gifted, and talented students.

World Language Advancement Act (H.R. 3096) by Rep. David Price (D-NC): Amend ESEA to award grants to state and local educational agencies for the establishment, improvement, and expansion of world language education programs.
STUDENT SUPPORT

- **BRAVE Act (H.R. 5959) by Rep. Cartwright (D-PA):** Report bullying to authorities and support equal protection claims against entities that do not respond appropriately.


- **Helping Military Children Succeed in Schools Act (H.R. 834) by Rep. Susan Davis (D-CA):** Amend ESEA to require state report cards to include the number of military-connected students and compare their performance to that of other students.

- **Homeless and Foster Youth Achievement Act (H.R. 3221) by Rep. Clark (D-MA):** Amend the ESEA to require states to include information on the academic progress of homeless children and children in foster care in annual state report cards.

- **Improving Education for Foster Youth Act (H.R. 562) by Rep. Grayson (D-FL):** Amend ESEA to ensure children in foster care can transfer credits when they change schools.

- **Keep Kids in School Act (S. 672) by Sen. Casey (D-PA):** Require states and districts to create plans to reduce suspensions and expulsions.

- **Native Hawaiian Education Reauthorization Act (S. 464/H.R. 895) by Sen. Hirono (D-HI) and Rep. Gabbard (D-HI):** Revise the duties and composition of the Native Hawaiian Education Council to enhance services and support.

- **NURSE Act (S. 2572) Sen. Tester (D-MT):** Provide grants to increase the number of school nurses in public elementary and secondary schools.

- **Patsy T. Mink Gender Equity in Education Act (S. 3147/H.R. 5682) by Sen. Hirono (D-HI) and Rep. Slaughter (D-NY):** Support educational entities in fully implementing Title IX and reducing and preventing sex discrimination in all areas of education.

- **Pregnant and Parenting Students Access to Education Act (S. 416) by Sen. Udall (D-NM):** Authorize grants for programs and services to enable pregnant and parenting students to enroll, attend, and succeed in school.

- **Put School Counselors Where They’re Needed Act (H.R. 2022) by Rep. Linda Sanchez (D-CA):** Amend ESEA to increase counselors and resources in struggling secondary schools.

- **Reducing Barriers to Learning Act (H.R. 2378) by Rep. Loebsack (D-IA):** Establish an office of specialized instructional support within the U.S. Department of Education to improve services provided by school counselors, social workers, psychologists, nurses, and other professionals involved in a comprehensive program to meet students’ needs.

- **School Social Workers Improving Student Success Act (H.R. 2988) by Rep. Moore (D-WI):** Amend ESEA to establish a grant program to fund additional school social workers and retain those already employed by high-need local educational agencies.

- **Stand Up For Students Act (H.R. 5427) by Rep. Dold (R-IL):** Prohibit the use of ESEA funds for excess payments to certain retirement or pension systems.

- **States’ Education Reclamation Act (H.R. 2281) by Rep. Rouzer (R-NC):** Eliminate the U.S. Department of Education.
NEA POSITIONS ON BILLS


Success in the Middle Act (S. 581/H.R. 2105) by Sen. Whitehouse (D-RI) and Rep. Grijalva (D-AZ): Authorize grants for states, based on their proportion of poor children, to improve middle schools and equip students to succeed in academically rigorous high schools.

Supporting Youth Opportunity and Preventing Delinquency Act (H.R. 5963) by Rep. Curbelo (R-FL): Strengthen and update the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act, which sets national standards for the custody and care of youth and supports improvements in juvenile justice systems.

Transition-to-Success Mentoring Act (H.R. 541) by Rep. Carson (D-IN): Amend ESEA to establish a mentoring program to help at-risk students make the transition from middle to high school.

TAXES

Educator Tax Relief Act (H.R. 2940) by Rep. Reichert (R-WA) and REPAY Supplies Act (H.R. 2692) Rep. Beatty (D-OH): The main goals of these bills were achieved in December 2015 when the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2016/tax extenders package became law. The above-the-line educator tax deduction is now permanent, indexed to inflation, and can be used for professional development as well as instructional materials and classroom supplies.

Federal Employee Tax Accountability Act (H.R. 1563) by Rep. Chaffetz (R-UT): Fire federal employees with a delinquent federal tax debt, do not hire applicants with this type of tax debt, and compel federal employees and applicants to release personal financial data.

Home School Opportunities Make Education Sound Act (S. 100) by Sen. Vitter (R-LA): Amend the Internal Revenue Code to provide tax deductions for expenses related to home schooling.

Marketplace Fairness Act (S. 698) by Sen. Enzi (R-WY): Raise billions of dollars by allowing states to require out-of-state businesses, such as those selling online or through catalogs, to collect and use tax revenue already owed under state law.

Paying a Fair Share Act (S. 161/H.R. 362) by Sen. Whitehouse (D-RI) and Rep. Cicilline (D-RI): Institute the “Buffet Rule” requiring a minimum tax rate of 30 percent on individuals making more than a million dollars a year.

Refundable Child Tax Credit Eligibility Verification Reform Act (H.R. 4722) by Rep. Sam Johnson (R-TX): Amend the Internal Revenue Code to make eligibility for the refundable child tax credit contingent on providing a Social Security number.


Trade Facilitation and Trade Enforcement Act (H.R. 644) by Rep. Tom Reed (R-NY): Incorporates the Permanent Internet Tax Freedom Act (PITFA), which limits states’ and localities’ ability to raise much-needed revenue for education and other essential public services. Became law in February 2016.
VOUCHERS

✗ **CHOICE Act (S. 265/H.R. 618) by Sen. Scott (R-SC) and Rep. Rokita (R-IN):** Expand eligibility for the District of Columbia voucher program to students with disabilities and establish a pilot voucher program for military dependents.

✗ **Choices in Education Act (H.R. 6119) by Rep. Steve King (R-IA):** Distribute federal funds for elementary and secondary education as vouchers for eligible students and repeal a rule on school nutrition standards.


✗ **Educational Opportunities Act (S. 809/H.R. 1511) by Sen. Rubio (R-FL) and Rep. Rokita (R-IN):** Amend the Internal Revenue Code to provide tax credits for individuals and corporations (up to $100,000) for charitable contributions to organizations whose sole purpose is providing vouchers for low-income students.

✗ **Empowering Parents to Invest in Choice Act (H.R. 1928) by Rep. McHenry (R-NC):** Amend the Internal Revenue Code to expand qualified tuition programs and increase the amount that can be contributed to Coverdell education savings accounts.

✗ **Transform Education in America through Choice Act (H.R. 773) by Rep. Yoho (R-FL):** Allow Title I portability, vouchers for special education, repeal U.S. Department of Education competitive grant programs, and reduce the workforce of the U.S. Department of Education.

WORKERS’ RIGHTS

✓ **Paycheck Fairness Act (S. 862/H.R. 1619) by Sen. Mikulski (D-MD) and Rep. DeLauro D-CT:** Create incentives for employers to follow the Equal Pay Act, empower women to negotiate for equal pay, and strengthen federal outreach and enforcement efforts.

✓ **Raise the Wage Act (S. 1150/H.R. 2150) by Sen. Murray (D-WA) and Rep. Bobby Scott (D-VA):** Increase the minimum wage to $12 an hour by 2020 and index increases to median wage growth annually.

✗ **Resolution of disapproval of new National Labor Relations Board election rules (S.J. Res. 8/H. J. Res. 29) by Sen. Alexander (R-TN) and Rep. Kline (R-MN), respectively:** Vetoed by the President.