

### **A Focus on Teaching, Leading, and Learning through My Legislative Agenda**

A lot of people have opinions regarding the direction of the US public school system. As a career educator, school principal, and school board leader, I also have strong opinions regarding the direction of public school education in America. I believe that the American public school is the foundation of our very democracy. It should be valued and nurtured at all costs.

I am adamant that each and every child living in America should have an excellent public school education that prepares them to be active members of our democracy and provides them the necessary skills to enter a vibrant workforce. As a result, my legislative portfolio focuses on building up a vibrant cohort of new educators into the classroom by focusing on a strong clinical preparation program. Teaching is a complex profession. An educator needs to be skilled in pedagogy and content knowledge.

My legislative portfolio on Teaching, Leading, and Learning acknowledges the competencies and expertise that the classroom teacher possesses through their clinical based teacher preparation programs. I believe that Federal policy and priorities should focus on teacher preparation. As a result, the national dialogue regarding teacher retention and evaluation will change dramatically. Educators in the field: classroom teachers, paraprofessionals, principals, superintendents, and parents all want their children to succeed in school. My legislation empowers the work of educators in the field to get it done.

The 112<sup>th</sup> Congress legislation on the House floor included:

H.R. 6447, the Educator Preparation Reform Act

The 108<sup>th</sup> Congress:

H.R. 1611, the Teacher Mentoring Act

### **H.R. 6447, the Educator Preparation Reform Act**

H.R. 6447, the Educator Preparation Act of 2012 is a comprehensive bill that connects high-need local educational agencies, clinical teacher preparation sites, and community stakeholders in order to build vibrant pathways into the career of classroom teaching. It is my hope that policy makers consider the innovative approaches that this bill brings to the table as the Higher Education Act is up for reauthorization in the 113<sup>th</sup> Congress: increased collaboration between higher education and the PreK-12 community, the increased rigor of clinical preparation programs and increased expertise of the practitioner in the classroom.

H.R. 3373, the STEM Education Innovation Act, has three legislative goals:

- Builds upon the success of the Teacher Quality Partnership Program by connecting institutions of higher education with high-needs school districts to collaborate and share ideas on best practices by identifying the specific needs of the school district and their community of learners.
- Establishes yearlong teacher and principal residency programs in high-needs school districts to increase success of new educators coming into the profession and their retention in the field.
- Overhauls the reporting requirements found in current law by focusing on transparency and data sets that improve overall program quality.
- Targets eligibility for TEACH grants for students in their final two years of a teacher preparation program, thereby, reducing the number of recipients who are required to pay back their grants as loans because they decided not to pursue their original goal of going into the field of education.

## Press on H.R. 6447, the Educator Preparation Reform Act

Rep. Honda and Sen. Reed Introduce Bill to Improve Educator Preparation

WASHINGTON, DC – U.S. Representative Michael Honda (D-CA) and U.S. Senator Jack Reed (D-RI)

Rep Honda and Senator Reed – in response to research that shows teacher quality and school leadership

**“Gone are the days of having outside educators swoop in and do short-term service in poverty a**

The Educator Preparation Reform Act creates more rigorous reporting on admissions standards, clinical

Additionally, the bill makes significant improvements to the Teacher Quality Partnership program by exp

The bill has broad support across the education community, including American Association of Colleges

**Governor Bob Wise, President, Alliance for Excellent Education** “Ensuring college and career readiness is a complex undertaking

**Antonio R. Flores, President and CEO, Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities** “The bill will ensure that prepared Hispanic

**Sharon P. Robinson, President and CEO, American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education**

**Michael A. Resnick, Assistant Executive Director, National School Boards Association**

**Wendy D. Puriefoy, President, Public Education Network**

Other Press Hits:

<http://www.insidehighered.com/views/2012/12/04/producing-better-prepared-teachers-and-school-leaders-essay>