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November 15, 2013

Dear Member of Congress:

On behalf of more than three million members National Education Association's (NEA) and the students they serve, we are writing to bring to your attention the below lists of House and Senate bills for which NEA is seeking cosponsors.

While NEA endorses many bills, the attached memorandums highlight only a few of them.

As in earlier years, co-sponsorship of bills referenced in this list will be considered when calculating NEA's 2013 Legislative Report Card grades (Congressional ratings), as long as co-sponsors' names are recorded officially by the end of the 1st session of the 113th Congress.

Thank you for your attention. If you have any questions or need any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact the NEA Government Relations Team.

Sincerely,

Mary Kusler, Director
NEA Government Relations

**BILL CO-SPONSORSHIPS REQUESTED BY THE
NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION
UNITED STATES SENATE
November 2013**

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

- **S. 1697 - Strong Start for America's Children Act**, introduced by Sen. Harkin [D-IA] - The early childhood education proposal is a 10-year initiative to expand and improve early learning opportunities for children across the birth to age 5 continuum. The bill would fund preschool for 4-year old children from families earning below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL), and encourage states to spend their own funds to support preschool for young children with family incomes above that income level. The legislation would establish a new federal-state partnership with formula funding for 4-

year old preschool, with a state match, to all eligible states, based on each state's proportion of 4-year olds under 200% of the FPL. States would provide sub-grants to high-quality, local providers, including local educational agencies (LEAs) and community-based providers (such as child care and Head Start programs) that have partnerships with LEAs. The bill also authorizes a new Early Head Start partnership with child care to improve the quality of care for infants and toddlers.

EDUCATION POLICY AND FUNDING

- **S. 1291 - Family Engagement in Education Act of 2013**, introduced by Sen. Reed [D-RI] – would amend Title I of ESEA to authorize states to reserve school improvement funds to award a grant to a statewide nonprofit organization to establish a Statewide Family Engagement Center that provides comprehensive training, technical assistance, and capacity building to local educational agencies (LEAs), organizations that support family-school partnerships, and other organizations that carry out parent education and family engagement in education programs. S. 1291 would also require each state school improvement plan to include a plan for strengthening family engagement in education.
- **S. 1523 - Rebuilding America's Schools Act**, introduced by Sen. Rockefeller [D-WV] - amends the Internal Revenue Code, with respect to tax-exempt bond funding for educational facilities, to: (1) reinstate the national qualified school construction bond limitation amount for calendar years after 2013, (2) make permanent the qualified zone academy bond (QZAB) limitation amount, (3) permit private entities to waive the 10% matching requirement for QZABs, and (4) revise the definition of QZAB for purposes of the credit for issuers of qualified tax credit bonds.

EDUCATION SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS

- **S. 456 - Annual National Classified School Employee of the Year Award Act**, introduced by Sen. Murray [D-WA] - directs the Secretary of Education to award National Classified School Employee of the Year Award to classified public school employees within certain occupational specialties who provide exemplary service to students in prekindergarten through higher education.

HIGHER EDUCATION

- **S. 1269 - Community College to Career Fund Act**, introduced by Sen. Franken [D-MN] - amends the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 to direct the Secretary of Labor and the Secretary of Education to award competitive grants to: (1) institutions of higher education for educational or career training programs (including those leading to a recognized postsecondary credential) for workers, (2) state or local organizations in partnership with community colleges and other training providers for pay-for-performance projects and pay-for-success job training projects, (3) state or local governments to provide job training or recruiting activities necessary to provide skilled workers for businesses that have relocated or are considering relocating operations outside the United States but may instead relocate them to or remain in areas served by those governments, and (4) institutions of higher education in partnership with local or regional economic development entities to provide training in starting a small business and entrepreneurship.

RETIREES

- **S. 896 – Social Security Fairness Act of 2013**, introduced by Sen. Begich [D-AK] and Sen. Collins [R-ME]- would fully repeal the Government Pension Offset and Windfall

Elimination Provision, which unfairly reduce Social Security benefits of hundreds of thousands of public employees and their spouses.

**BILL CO-SPONSORSHIPS REQUESTED BY THE
NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
November 2013**

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

- **H.R. 3461 - Strong Start for America's Children Act**, introduced by Rep. Miller [D-CA] and Rep. Hanna [R-NY] - The early childhood education proposal is a 10-year initiative to expand and improve early learning opportunities for children across the birth to age 5 continuum. The bill would fund preschool for 4-year old children from families earning below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL), and encourage states to spend their own funds to support preschool for young children with family incomes above that income level. The legislation would establish a new federal-state partnership with formula funding for 4-year old preschool, with a state match, to all eligible states, based on each state's proportion of 4-year olds under 200% of the FPL. States would provide sub-grants to high-quality, local providers, including local educational agencies (LEAs) and community-based providers (such as child care and Head Start programs) that have partnerships with LEAs. The bill also authorizes a new Early Head Start partnership with child care to improve the quality of care for infants and toddlers.

EDUCATION POLICY AND FUNDING

- **H.R.2662 - Family Engagement in Education Act of 2013**, introduced by Rep. Thompson [R-PA]– would amend Title I of ESEA to authorize states to reserve school improvement funds to award a grant to a statewide nonprofit organization to establish a Statewide Family Engagement Center that provides comprehensive training, technical assistance, and capacity building to local educational agencies (LEAs), organizations that support family-school partnerships, and other organizations that carry out parent education and family engagement in education programs. H.R. 2662 would also require each state school improvement plan to include a plan for strengthening family engagement in education.
- **H.R. 2237 – Developing Innovative Partnerships and Learning Opportunities that Motivate Achievement Act or the DIPLOMA Act**, introduced by Rep. Chu [D-CA]– would authorize the Secretary of Education to award renewable five-year grants to states and, through them, sub-grants to local consortia that include a local educational agency and other community partners to: (1) ensure the academic, physical, social, emotional, and civic development of disadvantaged youth; and (2) strengthen their families and communities.
- **H.R. 1629 – Rebuilding America's Schools Act**, introduced by Rep. Rangel [D-NY] - amends the Internal Revenue Code, with respect to tax-exempt bond funding for educational facilities, to: (1) reinstate the national qualified school construction bond limitation amount for calendar years after 2013, (2) make permanent the qualified zone academy bond (QZAB) limitation amount, (3) permit private entities to waive the 10% matching requirement for QZABs, and (4) permit QZAB proceeds to be used for constructing a public school facility in which such an academy is established.

- **H.R. 684 – Marketplace Fairness Act of 2013**, introduced by Rep. Womack [R-AR] - authorizes each member state under the Streamlined Sales and Use Tax Agreement (the multistate agreement for the administration and collection of sales and use taxes adopted on November 12, 2002) to require all sellers not qualifying for a small-seller exception (applicable to sellers with annual gross receipts in total U.S. remote sales not exceeding \$1 million) to collect and remit sales and use taxes with respect to remote sales under provisions of the Agreement, but only if such Agreement includes minimum simplification requirements relating to the administration of the tax, audits, and streamlined filing. Defines "remote sale" as a sale of goods or services into a state in which the seller would not legally be required to pay, collect, or remit state or local sales and use taxes unless provided by this Act.

EDUCATION SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS

- **H.R. 1763 – Recognizing Achievement in Classified School Employees Act**, introduced by Rep. Titus [D-NV] - directs the Secretary of Education to award National Classified School Employees of the Year Awards to public school employees within certain occupational specialties who provide exemplary service to students in pre-kindergarten through higher education.

HIGHER EDUCATION

- **H.R. 2560 – Community College to Career Fund Act**, introduced by Rep. Miller [D-CA] - amends the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 to direct the Secretary of Labor and the Secretary of Education to award competitive grants to: (1) institutions of higher education for educational or career training programs for workers, (2) state or local organizations in partnership with community colleges and other training providers for pay-for-performance projects and pay-for-success job training projects, (3) state or local governments to provide job training or recruiting activities necessary to provide skilled workers for businesses that have relocated or are considering relocating operations outside the United States but may instead relocate them to areas served by those governments, and (4) institutions of higher education in partnership with local or regional economic development entities to provide training in starting a small business and entrepreneurship.

RETIREEES

- **H.R. 1795 – Social Security Fairness Act of 2013**, introduced by Rep. Davis [R-IL] and Rep. Schiff [D-CA] - would fully repeal the Government Pension Offset and Windfall Elimination Provision, which unfairly reduce Social Security benefits of hundreds of thousands of public employees and their spouses.

TAX

- **H.R. 3490 – Teacher Tax Deduction Enhancement Act of 2013**, introduced by Rep. Graves [R-MO] – would amend the Internal Revenue code to grant a \$500 above-the-line tax deduction for full-time educators and make available, for the first time, a \$250 deduction to part-time teachers, who purchase classroom supplies out of their own pockets through 2019. Preschool teachers in state recognized schools would be allowed the deduction as well.

SOCIAL JUSTICE

- **H.R. 1755 – Employee Non-Discrimination Act of 2013**, introduced by Rep. Polis [D-CO] - Prohibits employment discrimination on the basis of actual or perceived sexual

orientation or gender identity by covered entities (employers, employment agencies, labor organizations, or joint labor-management committees).