

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

October 22, 2015

The Honorable John Kline  
Chairman  
Committee on Education and the Workforce  
2176 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Robert C. "Bobby" Scott  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Education and the Workforce  
2101 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Kline and Ranking Member Scott,

We support efforts to address sexual assault and dating violence among teenagers and young adults through the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) this year. In particular, policies to teach young people about safe relationship behaviors present an opportunity to proactively address these issues and prevent future incidents of abuse and violence.

Young women of high school and college age consistently experience the highest rate of intimate partner violence. As the House sponsors of the Teach Safe Relationships Act, we are encouraged that the Senate included provisions in the Every Child Achieves Act to promote safe relationship behavior education. Language in the Senate-passed bill allows school districts to use Title IV funds to develop this curriculum and requires districts to describe their efforts to teach safe relationship behavior.

These provisions underscore Congress's commitment to support schools to openly address sexual assault and dating violence and we fully support their inclusion in any final legislative proposals to reauthorize the ESEA. Age appropriate, evidence-based educational programs give young adults the tools to avoid unhealthy, abusive relationships, and identify and prevent unsafe behavior.

Title IV programs have allowed school districts to develop innovative and successful programs to prevent drug use and violence. The inclusion of the Senate-passed provisions on safe relationship behavior will create a more comprehensive curriculum to keep all students healthy and safe.

Thank you for your consideration and your commitment to advancing the safety and well-being of students.

Sincerely,



**CAROLYN B. MALONEY**  
Member of Congress



**ALMA S. ADAMS**  
Member of Congress



**SUZANNE BONAMICI**  
Member of Congress