

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

October 4, 2004

Chairman Ralph Regula  
House Committee on Appropriations  
2358 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Regula,

We are writing to request your support to restore full funding for Title V, Part A, the Innovative Programs section of the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act. During markup of the Labor, Health, and Human Services Appropriations bill, H.R. 5006, it came to our attention that the funds for Title V had been eliminated.

As you know, President Bush's FY 2005 Budget Request included 38 program eliminations, with savings of over \$1.4 billion. However, the President did not request elimination of the Title V block grant program.

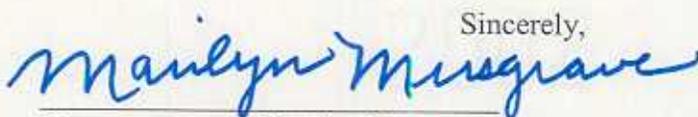
In FY 2004, this program was funded at \$297 million, and every state received at least \$1.4 million in block grants. The flexibility of these funds is critical in allowing schools to meet their NCLB requirements. At a time when some feel that NCLB is being "underfunded," it is imperative that we preserve this program.

Title V is a much sought after block grant that allows educators the flexibility to address local needs, whether they be school safety, remedial reading, drop-out prevention, or professional development. This block grant is the most flexible program contained within the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. It is also the only formula program allowing recipients to use funds to benefit any and all student populations, including equitable participation for private schools.

During recent floor debate of H.R. 5006, Congressman John Shadegg and Congresswoman Marilyn Musgrave successfully offered an amendment to restore much-needed funding for the Title V, Part A Education Block Grant program. It is our hope that conferees will restore the full \$297 million requested by the President. Furthermore, we believe it is essential that this increase be offset using the President's 38 proposed program eliminations as a guide.

We ask your support to restore the full amount of Title V funds in H.R. 5006 and preserve this much-needed, flexible funding stream.

Sincerely,



Congresswoman Marilyn Musgrave



Congressman John Shadegg

Cc: Speaker Dennis Hastert, Chairman Bill Young

John Baehner

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