



New Jersey Catholic Conference
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ACTION ALERT

ISSUE: In 1965, the Catholic Bishops of the United States were instrumental in having nonpublic school students, parents, and teachers included in the original Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). The current version of the Act (No Child Left Behind) has not been reauthorized according to the original timetable. The United States House of Representatives has released its version of a reauthorized ESEA. Known as the Student Success Act (SSA), it will be the initial step in addressing inequities in No Child Left Behind for the nonpublic school community. Such improvements include the following:

- Improved consultation requirements and other features which provide equitable services to students and teachers in religious and independent schools.
- Specific provisions related to improving access to services for students in need and their teachers, regardless of where they attend school, thus making a substantial contribution to putting the needs of students and their families first.
- Creating additional opportunities for quality education for all children as noted in the Bishops' 2005 statement "*Renewing Our Commitment to Catholic Elementary and Secondary Schools in the Third Millennium.*"

OUR

POSITION: The New Jersey Catholic Conference and the New Jersey Network of Catholic School Families have continued to promote equitable participation in all versions of the ESEA since the Bill's inception.

ACTION: Call write or email your members of the United States House of Representatives from New Jersey and ask for their support in this version of the reauthorized ESEA. Emphasize the importance of equitable participation for nonpublic school students, particularly in the areas of consultation and equitability of services.

A list of the members of the House of Representatives is included with this Alert.

For your convenience, you may use a prepared letter on our Voter Voice Advocacy System at

<https://www.votervoice.net/NJCC/Campaigns/39061/Respond>