



December 8, 2017

The Honorable Virginia Foxx
Chair
Committee on Education and the Workforce
U.S. House of Representatives
2176 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Bobby Scott
Ranking Member
Committee on Education and the Workforce
U.S. House of Representatives
2101 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Foxx and Ranking Member Scott:

As the House Committee on Education and Workforce works to finalize the Promoting Real Opportunity, Success, and Prosperity Through Education Reform (PROSPER) Act, the Education Policy Program at New America respectfully asks the Committee to reinstate Section 201 of Title II in the Higher Education Act (HEA) of 1965 under current law.

The programs authorized under Title II of the current Higher Education Act serve as a critical point of connection between our higher education and preK-12 systems, enabling an essential feedback loop between the needs of students and schools, and the way that educators are prepared by postsecondary entities to meet those needs. All learners—and future workers and citizens—are prepared for their postsecondary experiences by elementary and secondary teachers, and hence those teachers' own education and preparation for their profession is of national importance.

Part A of Title II focuses on two areas related to programs preparing educators to work in elementary and secondary schools. The Teacher Quality Partnership Grant program provides competitive funding to model teacher residency programs and to partnerships between schools of education at institutions of higher education (IHEs) and high-need school districts and/or high-need early childhood education programs that work to institute reforms that improve the quality of teachers and school leaders entering the profession. Title II, Part A also promotes transparency around teacher preparation program quality through the creation and publication of state- and institution-level report cards on programs that

prepare teachers—an issue that has received significant attention over the past five years, and which could be reformed to provide more meaningful information to stakeholders.

While we applaud the Committee for recognizing the need to expand programs that connect students to high-quality work experience and facilitate their transition into good jobs, we see no reason for these programs to supplant efforts aimed at enhancing teacher quality. To the contrary, we support both efforts and encourage the Committee to include both in the PROSPER Act.

We recognize that Title II, as currently authorized, can be improved. However, we respectfully ask that the Committee keep programs focused on enhancing the quality of educator preparation in the bill, and instead use the reauthorization process as an opportunity to strengthen these programs based on learnings gleaned from their implementation since the last reauthorization of the HEA law. We welcome the opportunity to work with the Committee as the process for reauthorizing the Higher Education Act moves forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin Carey", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Kevin Carey
Director, Education Policy Program
New America