



March 4, 2015

The Honorable Orrin G. Hatch  
United States Senate  
104 Hart Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Hatch:

**RE: Every Child Ready for College and Career Act must include professional development for teachers**

The Utah Technology Council has been following the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), now aptly called, Every Child Ready for College and Career Act, and believes strongly that the bill is missing an opportunity to advance the teaching profession in critical and meaningful ways.

In order for teachers to be more effective in producing high achieving-students necessary to boost our state's economy, we need to prioritize and ensure that teachers have the resources necessary to continuously improve their practice in the classroom. Additionally, Title II fund portability to other title programs would further deemphasize the importance of teachers and would allow states to fall off track of teacher professional improvements they have been heavily invested in over the last several years.

In Senator Alexander's current draft bill, ***the definition of what is widely-accepted, evidence-based professional development has been left out, and we are asking that it be included in the Title II section of ESEA.***

States need the signal that teacher effectiveness is important, and teachers need the signal that it is a priority to continually improve their profession as a critical part of our economy. Further, we believe that the use of technology will aid in reaching all teachers in the classroom whenever and wherever they need support.

Please help us ensure that Title II funds can be used for redesigning professional development systems to improve teachers and schools by:

- aligning to various quantitative and qualitative data sources regarding the needs of students and educators;
- creating collaborative learning structures for educators;
- following a cycle of continuous improvement;
- utilizing a variety of learning designs and adult learning strategies such as, online and on-demand professional development resources that facilitate access to quality teacher resources, collaboration, modeling, coaching, and feedback; and
- ensuring that professional development is "relevant to the needs of students and teachers."

***Again, for our schools to succeed in Utah and the nation, the new federal education law must emphasize the importance of professional development for improving teaching effectiveness and the use of technology to efficiently do so.***

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on this important piece of legislation which will have a significant impact on the future of our nation's students, teachers and economy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard R. Nelson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Richard R. Nelson  
President and CEO